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ABSTRACT

This set of nine papers on special library concerns includes papers presented by participants from Canada, Denmark, East Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Papers are entitled: "The Needs of the Special Librarian and the Library Association," by Miriam H. Tees; "Position and Development of Special Libraries within the Librarianship of the GDR," by Gerhard Schwarz; "Art Library Associations Worldwide: Their History and Future," by Philip Pacey; "Exchange and Bibliography of Danish Official Publications," by Rita Eljersen; "Art Libraries in the GDR," by Wolfgang Winkler; "The Role of the Medical Library Association in Education, Standards, and Other Support Services of Members," by Shirley Echelman; "The Role of the Library in a National Professional Organization," by Susan Crawford; "Serving the Needs of the Biological Sciences Librarian," by David R. Bender; and "Services, Structure, and Organization of Libraries and Information Facilities for Medical Research and the Health System in the GDR," by Horst Sonntag. (JL)

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

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DIVISION: Special Libraries
SECTION:

9/SPEC/1E

The Needs of the Special Librarian and the Library Association

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Division: Special Libraries

Section:

The Needs of the Special Librarian and the Library Association

by

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Librarians are inveterate joiners of associations. In fact, there has been criticism of our profession for its tendency to organize itself into smaller and smaller, more and more specialized associations. We sometimes feel that we have neither the time to devote to all of those that interest us nor the money to pay fees and costs of meetings.

Why do librarians organize so enthusiastically? Howard Hitchens, speaking of librarians in North America, says "The case for belonging to a professional association is probably self-evident; but it bears repeating. Professional associations are the agencies in the North American culture which coalesce professional concerns, promote growth and progress within the research base on which the professional field rests, provide opportunities for individual professionals to enlarge their grasp of the field, and provide opportunities for individual professionals to contribute to progress in the professional field."

The literature is full of lists of the activities of library associations and the benefits of belonging. In an IFLA publication entitled "The Organization of the Library Profession", A.H. Chaplin lists nine forms of activity including education, research, publications, creation of standards, promoting cooperation, lobbying, training new librarians, examination of students or accreditation of library schools, and advancement of professional status.

Brawner in the ALA yearbook of 1979 wrote to fourteen prominent librarians in the United States asking them to state the benefits of participation in library associations. Three major areas were identified: first, "professional contacts and acquaintances", secondly, "professional awareness and a forum for our own ideas", and thirdly, "professional development, new skills and continuing education".

Are special librarians different in some way from all other librarians? What can we say about our needs in particular and the benefits we derive from library associations.

Jean Conachie, in an article on the Special Libraries section of the Library Association of Australia says "Publications and meetings are of course the ways in which we exchange ideas and keep in touch with our colleagues who often work in professional isolation".

She touches on one of the most common characteristics of special librarians: that they work in relatively small libraries or information centres. Often they are the only professional librarians in their institutions and there are rarely more than half a dozen except in the largest special libraries. Unlike librarians working in academic libraries or in most public libraries, they have no colleagues with whom to discuss their problems or from whom to learn the latest techniques. They usually subscribe to a few of the most important library journals but of necessity will not have available to them as wide a range of professional reading as colleagues in large libraries. The library association is all the more important, therefore, to special librarians so that they can keep in contact with other members of the profession.

In the light of this isolation let us look at some of the needs of special librarians and how they are filled by the associations.

Most special librarians readily admit that it is contact with professional colleagues which is the most valuable benefit of participation in associations. The informal "invisible college" is one of the recognized avenues of scholarship and professional development. Here it is at work among librarians with similar interests who meet over a meal or at a round table discussion to exchange ideas. Here librarians learn who knows what, where elusive information is available, and what new techniques are being tried and found successful or unsuccessful. The special librarian who lacks this daily contact in the work place needs an association meeting or conference to make these valuable contacts. Associations which have frequent local meetings are of particular value here, of course. Organizations such as the Special Libraries Association or CASLIS which have local chapters which meet often have a particularly useful role.

Next to contacts with other librarians, continuing education is the most important need of special librarians. It is estimated that five years after graduation with a Master's degree it will be necessary for librarians to take some supplementary training, so quickly is the field of information science developing. Where do librarians find the type of advanced training they need? Many associations are concerned to provide courses of this kind for librarians.

In Britain, ASLIB has a very well developed programme of courses, workshops, visits, conferences, and meetings throughout the United Kingdom. In the United States the Special Libraries Association offers a variety of continuing education courses at its annual conference and has packaged courses to go to local chapters on request. In addition to those provided by Association Headquarters, local chapters hold many workshops and educational activities. The Federation of Special Libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany reported in Inspel on their 16th conference at Augsburg in 1977 where various continuing education sessions were held on the theme "Acquiring and Using Professional Literature and other Information Media".

Educational activities by associations are not confined to continuing education. Many associations are closely involved with education for librarianship in general. Special librarians are invited to teach courses in library schools, to suggest educational needs, and to administer qualifying examinations. They have to be involved at least to the extent that they hire graduate librarians and must know what to expect of them.

A third enormously important contribution of library associations is in library cooperation. Special libraries, even more than large academic and public libraries, can never hope to collect and own all the materials they need. Indeed, it is normal for special libraries to have highly specialized collections, often with very great depth in a limited field. Interlibrary loan is the answer to the problem of requiring material outside one's own field or limit. Associations have been active in promoting interlibrary loan by publishing directories, establishing standards and forms, and even by publishing union lists of serials. Union lists are more often provided nowadays by national bibliographic centres, but the contribution of associations cannot be denied. In the 1970's and 1980's libraries have moved toward more sophisticated forms of interlibrary loan: networking.

Special libraries may not have been involved in developing early formal networks, but are participating heavily in existing ones and are engaged in establishing new ones. In an article in Special Libraries , Barbara M. Robinson discusses special library activity in the U.S. national network. Special libraries are benefiting from many of the services provided by networks including manual and machine-assisted reference, production of such tooks as COM catalogues, directories, and union lists, cooperative cataloguing, delivery of documents and bibliographic materials, and of course, interlibrary loan. Librarians also benefit personally and professionally through training, discussion of problems, and contact with a wider group of librarians. Networks themselves are not, strictly speaking, associations but to some extent they do fulfill the same function as associations. Some associations have also had strong influence on networks in that they encourage their development and encourage their members to become involved. SLA has, for example, been active in promoting networks. As long ago as 1977, SLA published a booklet entitled "Getting into networks: guidelines for special libraries". Another very recent SLA publication "The Special Library Role in Networks" reports a conference held at the General Motors Research Laboratories in May, 1980. A number of special librarians told of their experiences in networking, and looked at the past, present, and future of special libraries' involvement in formal cooperation. Networking has been a major preoccupation of SLA for some years and, though it does not offer a network to join, it does educate libraries in networking and helps them to develop them.

Still another benefit to special librarians of an active association is the possibility it provides for a forum for the ideas of individuals. Professional journals published by associations provide an opportunity for special librarians to publish results of research, ideas for new library techniques, and opinions on all facets of the profession. Conferences provide meetings where members can present papers, and react to the ideas of others. Some associations actively encourage their members to do research by providing grants or other assistance. It also provides a place in which librarians can become involved in the work of the association, influencing the direction in which it and thus the profession is going. Usually there are many committees both professional and administrative, requiring participation. Not only do these committees permit members to make their own contribution to the profession but they also provide a training ground for the inexperienced who need a place to try out their ability to take part in the political process.

In Brawner's article in the 1979 ALA yearbook he quotes a librarian as saying "Activity in an association is the best possible learning experience for situation politics. One learns how to talk and deal with people and problems, and to work out the solutions".

Special librarians have particular subject interests, and many of their associations are divided into subject groups. IFLA has five sections and four round tables. Each of these has well established objectives which involve joint activities and projects to improve the bibliographic control or conservation of resources in particular subject fields. The Geography and Map section, for example, has as objectives the training of map librarians providing information on the care of geography and map collections, promotion and improvement of bibliographies, directories, and glossaries in their own subject. The Art Librarians Round Table provides a forum for exchange of ideas on art librarianship, develops international standards for cataloguing documents in the field of art, encourages cooperative acquisition, exchange of staff, good reprints, and prepares union catalogues. Astronomical and Geophysical Librarians in their Round Table promote the study of space sciences, update Dewey Decimal Classification, and provide information on their libraries to others throughout the world. These are but a few of the activities of an association which benefit subject specialists.

Both ASLIB and Special Libraries Association have active groups involved with special subjects, and they have published material of use to those working in special fields. SLA has 29 subdivisions from Advertising and Marketing to Transportation. Most of these divisions publish newsletters at intervals which provide a further forum for members' opinion and research. These newsletters also frequently list duplicate material available for exchange, provide or list bibliographies on current topics prepared by various librarians and available on request, news of new publications, techniques, or equipment found useful by some members, and publish or report on interesting papers given at meetings.

Groups of subject specialists have for years been active in preparing bibliographic and reference tools. For example, the Helsinki School of Economics Library with the Aarhus School of Business Administration Library and the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration Library published SCANP Scandinavian Periodicals Index in Economics and Business and a group of British librarians publishes SCIMP - a similar project in economics and business. Librarians in the Insurance Division of SLA have long prepared the index to insurance periodicals published in Best's Review.

One could continue to cite bibliographic and reference tools prepared and published through associations since this is one of the most common joint activities of librarians and the need for such tools often leads to the formation of the associations or subgroups in the first place.

Library associations are frequently involved in influencing legislation, particularly library legislation but also legislation on subjects affecting libraries such, for example, as copyright.

Josephine Riss Fang has published a very worth while article in an IFLA journal of 1979 on the impact of national library associations on library legislation. She says "This activity, to promote and achieve national legislation, should be one of the most predominent goals of library associations, for it is in the enactment of national laws that associations may fulfill their primary aim of working for the common good of their fellow citizens and at the same time achieve those objectives for which the association was established." She discusses legislation to establish national libraries and bibliographic services, legislation by which ministries and boards are set up to establish, control, promote and finance public, academic, and school libraries, and legislation affecting libraries such as that dealing with the regulation of the book industry, organization of communication networks, copyright, pornography, censorship, etc. She cites U.S., U.K., Federal Republic of Germany, the Philippines, Yugoslavia, Nigeria, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Denmark, Senegal, the Netherlands and Spain as having national associations which have been able to influence various types of library legislation. It is true that some of this does not directly affect the special librarian, but any legislation which contributes to a more dynamic library and information system in a country has an affirmative impact on special libraries as well.

During the revision of the U.S. copyright law in 1975-77, the five major library associations were very active in working for changes in the law which had, in the first instance, been totally unrealistic in their approach to photocopying in special libraries. It was in large measure due to the work of these associations, that the law which passed was not a total disaster for libraries. In this work, Dr. Frank McKenna, a former Chairman of the Special Libraries Division of IFLA was a leader.

Associations have been active in developing standards for libraries. The New Zealand Library Association has as two of its aims "v) To promote library service and librarianship according to standards approved by the Association" and "vi) To formulate and publish standards of administration on matters relevant to librarianship and library service." These two objectives relating to standards - first to formulate them and then to promote library service which meets their standards - is common to many associations. Given the great diversity in libraries, formulation of standards has not been easy, but, with increased emphasis on the scientific management of libraries and a more mathematical approach to the evaluation of libraries, setting standards has come to the fore. Standards may cover types of library - such as school or academic libraries. Of more interest to special librarians are those dealing with personnel ratios - how many librarians per user?, for example, or space regulations - how much space, for example, should a library leave between carrels - or materials standards, such as those covering quality and size for microforms and microform readers - and still more vital, standards for cataloguing or indexing so that systems from library to library and from country to country are compatible. As networking develops and more and more special libraries become involved in networks, and as networks extend beyond country boundaries to the whole world of libraries and information, standards become of vital importance to all librarians. Lack of standards has been one of the barriers to cooperation. We need to all be aware of their existence, be attempting to formulate them, to agree to them, to work on them, and thus establish a world network.

Well formulated standards can be of help to special librarians in another way - by providing a documented and official prototype upon which to build a special library. Standards help the librarian to brief management so they are better able to make intelligent decisions as to the need for a special library, to its place in the organization, its need for trained staff, its potential services and costs. Once the decision is reached, standards give the special librarian a model to work to, to adapt from, and to check against.

What of the status of the librarian? Is it an important function of the association to press for improved status? This point is debatable. Many librarians believe that associations should be involved in working for improved salaries and conditions of work. Some publish salary surveys; others press employers to hire only librarians with professional training; still others discuss "professionalism" and what we should do to improve our image. There is some validity in this, since a group is more visible than an individual, and support from a group can be helpful. We have some way to go, however, before our associations really handle this matter effectively.

You will realize from my remarks that I am a strong believer in the importance of the library association to the special librarian. If I may be permitted a few personal remarks, I would say that in my own experience, my work with various associations has been extremely rewarding. I have made many friends in various parts of the world through my contacts in associations. This has not simply been agreeable for me as a human being but it has often enabled me to do my work more effectively through knowing the right person to get in touch with at the right time.

Working in associations has also given me a sense of achievement and a feeling of having made a small contribution toward my profession and its work. This is important to human beings. Psychologists list this sense of achievement to be high on the list of life's satisfactions. In this way the associations have helped to fill not only my professional, but my personal needs.

What are the needs of the special librarian that can be filled by the Association? The need for contact with colleagues, the need to update knowledge and skills, the need to widen resources through cooperation with other libraries, interlibrary loan, and networking, the need for collaboration with subject specialists, the need to join others to produce bibliographic and reference tools, the need to put pressure on governments, the need to formulate and promote standards, and need for enhanced status. All of these needs can be met to a greater or lesser extent. Last of all, the need for renewed enthusiasm and eagerness to progress is met when special librarians gather formally and informally to discuss problems and exchange ideas and find that working together has the effect of a snowball; once it gets rolling it grows and grows.

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DIVISION: Special Libraries

SECTION:

10/SPEC/2E

Position and Development of Special Libraries within the Librarianship of the GDR

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Position and Development of Special Libraries within the Librarianship of the GDR

Special libraries (in German: Fachbibliotheken, wissenschaftliche Fachbibliotheken, Spezialbibliotheken) make books and other material available to a special user group (enterprises, combined works, research institutes, universities or colleges, etc.) defined by special subjects and being relatively constant. The term special library covers a great number of types of libraries being considerably different concerning size, range, function and working methods.

Owing to her cultural development and her highly developed industry the GDR possesses thousands of different special libraries. Though a great number of these libraries had been established before World War II, some of them already some centuries ago, the great majority of them has mainly developed since the foundation of the GDR in 1949.

Special libraries have one fundamental objective in common: to support the institutions they are subordinated to

- in implementing their practical work including assistance of the innovators' movement[1],
- in planning and management.
- in research and development,
- in training and advanced education of their staffs.

At larger enterprises and institutions, above all the research centres of combined works, the academies and universities special libraries have important supporting functions within research. Research and development in the GDR are determined by planned, continuous and coordinated exploitation of existing forces. Research is based on long-term programmes (natural sciences, mathematics, selected disciplines of technology, medicine) and central programmes (social sciences, national plan for science and technology) as wells as science and development conceptions of industry, agriculture, building and other fields. The tasks set for the research departments of the different fields and finally for different enterprises and institutions are based on these programmes. Consequently information and library need of users result from the research tasks of the different enterprises and institutions.

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[1] The innovators' movement is one form of creative mass initiative serving the further intensification of the production process by socialist rationalization in accordance with the continuous improvement of working and living conditions.

Long-term determination on information and library need enable special libraries to design their library and information activities precisely, as early as possible according to specialized subjects, sources of information, languages, resp. countries of the sources, date of publication, forms of acquisition, etc. Thus librarians can exert influence on course and output of research.

Special libraries have entered into close co-operation with trade union libraries established at a great number of enterprises of the GDR which provide support to trade union activities at the enterprises, bibliographical activities (including both scientific literature and belles-lettres), political, scientific-technological and cultural-aesthetic advanced education as well as to leisure time activities.

Library and information activities are integrated into the research work of their financing enterprises and institutions thus being prerequisites for involving special libraries in the international co-operation of these enterprises and institutions in the fields of science and technology within the CMEA, concerning friendship treaties of GDR universities and those of other socialist states and the co-operation of academies and research centres on international scale. International co-operation within the CMEA, however, does not cover exchange of publications only, but increasingly information activities (joint compilation of bibliographies, abstract journals, etc.)

The financing institutions are responsible for both planning and management and providing library budget and staff. Their managements are obliged to draw up programmes for library development, to give libraries methodical instruction and to organise advanced education for their staff in order to guarantee high efficiency of libraries within their ministerial spheres.

Execution of these measures requires a strict organization of librarianship within the different spheres (ministries, etc.) and the consignment of different parts of the programmes and the methodical instruction of the libraries to an appropriate library or institution. At present this demand cannot completely be met in every sphere. As far as planning and methodical instruction are concerned central special libraries or information and documentation centres are in charge of. The principal structures of special libraries according to their subordination to particular government authorities or institutions are the basis of a highly efficient library work with regard to their own enterprises and institutions. However, institutions of different spheres do practical work in similar fields and topics though under different aspects resulting in overlapping of library and information need. Therefore it will be necessary to supplement the principle of subordination according to government authorities or institutions with the principle of co-operation of libraries of the same special field being subordinated to different spheres. Regarding the significance of co-operation for the increase of efficiency of library work the libraries and their financing institutions are obliged to apply co-operation according to the Library Act:

> "In order to use the existing potentials of the library system effectively, to coordinate the activities of different libraries reasonably and to divide labour efficiently the libraries co-operate within library networks though being solely responsible" (§ 10, 1).

There is co-operation of libraries within the special library networks and according to territories. A special library network includes all the efficient special libraries of a related or similar special field without considering their subordination which by co-operating contribute to increasing the efficiency of their holdings as well as their information activities concerning research on, development and practice of their special discipline. It is the main concern of special networks to coordinate stock building and interlibrary lending within the networks; in addition they may pay attention to information activities, storage of little-used literature, publicity work, etc.

In general the profile of special library networks depends on the organization of science according to economic branches or special subjects. Basically the library associated to the main scientific institution of the subject concerned (research centre of a combined works, specialized academies, university, etc.) is the governing body of the special library network.

The relation of special library networks to adequate information and documentation centres plays a predominant role for the efficiency of the networks. Therefore, in general special library networks have to cope with size, range and structure of information networks.

Basically we are striving at co-operation of special libraries within networks in every scientific discipline. Special stress is, however, put on those fields playing an important part for the social development of the GDR, above all for the national economy (electrotechnology/electronics, building, agriculture, engineering, medicine, etc.).

Co-operation of libraries within special networks is based upon co-operation agreements including rights and duties of libraries concerned. Depending on significance and range of the special network either a central special library or a coordinating library is at its head. While legal provisions on functions and working methods of special library networks are in preparation at present two years ago basic regulations on central special libraries were issued according to which a central special library is "the stock centre and the methodical centre of scientific special libraries" of its special field. It provides support to science and practice, training and advanced education concerning library and bibliographical activities. Moreover, it guarantees complete stock building of sources of information within the special field, is responsible for various bibliothecarial-bibliographical information activities, coordinates library work within its special field, gives methodical instruction and executes specialised projects in the field of library science. Under the Basic Regulations especially great attention is focused on the legal status and the function, stock building, bibliothecarial-bibliographical information activities, use, tasks of coordination, establishment of networks, scientific-methodical work and planning and management. A Library Advisory Council assists the head of a central special library concerning governing activities.

Following Central Special Libraries have already been established; or are established at present:

- Landwirtschaftliche Zentralbibliothek des Instituts für landwirtschaftliche Information und Dokumentation der Akademie der Landwirtschaftswissenschaften der DDR, Berlin (Agricultural Central Library of the Institute of Agricultural Information and Documentation of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the GDR, Berlin)
- Pädagogische Zentralbibliothek, Berlin (Pedagogical Central Library, Berlin)
- Zentrale Fachbibliothek Bauwesen - Bauakademie, Bauinformation, Berlin (Central Special Library Building - Building Academy of the GDR, Berlin)
- Hochschule für Ökonomie "Bruno Leuschner", Berlin (Wirtschaftswissenschaften) (College of Economics "Bruno Leuschner", Berlin (Economics)
- Militärbibliothek der DDR, Dresden (Military Library of the GDR, Dresden)
- University Library of the Technische Universität Dresden (Technical University Dresden) (Technological sciences in co-operation with some other libraries)

- Zentralbibliothek für Körperkultur und Sport - Bibliothek der Deutschen Hochschule für Körperkultur und Sport, Leipzig (Central Library for Physical Culture and Sport - Library of the German College for Physical Culture and Sport, Leipzig)

Analogous to the establishment of special library networks efforts of librarians directed at improving co-operation within the territories have been made in recent years. It is the main concern of territorial co-operation to improve the supply of library and information need of users; therefore the contents of territorial co-operation depends largely on the specifics of the information and library need of the co-operating institutions.

Basically territorial co-operation covers all library activities including administration and the financial and material-technical basis.

An efficient territorial co-operation takes the principles of voluntary participation, equality and mutual benefit of the institutions involved into account. Both specialized and territorial co-operation is based upon co-operation agreements providing for planned activities as well as for analysis and control of, information and exchange of experience on the course and results of co-operation.

According to network activities there is a great variety of different forms of organization within territorial co-operation concerning partly agreements concluded by libraries partly the integration of library work into co-operation agreements of financing institutions of the libraries (e.g. co-operation agreements between local universities and combined works).

It seems to be advisable that the governing bodies of the co-operating institutions include as many staff members as possible in the preparation of co-operation agreements. It is one of the main duties of these governing bodies to inform their staff continuously and extensively on questions to both contents and organisation of co-operation agreements.

In order to involve librarians and the general public in library work an Advisory Council for Librarianship was established at the Ministry of Culture as provided by Library Act. The Council is composed of representatives of the main ministries, local authorities and different types of libraries. Special libraries are also represented by several head librarians of central special libraries according to their significance for librarianship. The Advisory Council advises the Minister of Culture in preparing essential decisions, is concerned with basic questions of library work and development and accepts among others reports of industrial ministries and local government authorities on the execution of the Library Act in their respective fields.

The Library Association of the GDR, a social organisation representing the interests of libraries is responsible for involving librarians and the public in library work. The Library Association submits proposals and recommendations to the governing bodies on the development of both the overall librarianship and particular types and gives its view on programmes, parts of plans or regulations. The different branches of the Library Association, especially its Sections and district working groups have actively assisted library co-operation and the establishment of the particular structure of co-operation. Special libraries and general research libraries holding large stocks of the special field concerned but subordinated to different spheres belong under the Sections. Some Sections, e.g. the Section on Social Science Libraries set up Sub-sections representing the interests of particular special libraries. The Section on Technical Libraries took steps to establish district working goups to be able to provide practical support to their member libraries.

Later on special library networks have developed on the basis of Sections (e.g. in the field of medicine).

The Library Association offers the special libraries the opportunity of exchanging experience, organizing advanced training courses or professional meetings.

The great majority of special libraries of the GDR show a high level of library work; the successes of the GDR made in the field of science and culture require among others highly efficient special libraries with effective library work.

In order to maintain the high standard of library work at special libraries and to extend it to as many libraries as possible it is necessary for this type of library to solve the problems it is facing or at least to reduce their effects. These problems are not typical of the GDR only, every country has to face them.

A serious problem results from the fact that the great number of special libraries is not independent but subordinated to an enterprise, a college or university, etc. We cannot take it for granted that governing bodies and staffs of the institutions libraries are subordinated to and central government authorities have sufficient knowledge of the role and methods of special libraries. Thus some enterprises and institutions do not consider the significance of libraries and instruct and equip them insufficiently on the one hand; and on the other hand the poor knowlegde has an unfavourable effect on the use of the libraries, and in the long run on the production standard and research output of the enterprises and institutions. Therefore special attention has to be focused on publicity work, namely in view of both the staff and the management.

In general special libraries belong under the departments for information and documentation of industrial enterprises and scientific-technological research centres; the trend to integrate library and information activities according to these structures is also obvious in social science institutions. But two problems have to be faced when organizing the work of these institutions including library and information activities; the first refers to the danger of having a merely formal integration only and no integration of working processes resulting in unnecessary duplication of effort concerning stock building and methods of information on the stock. On the other hand special libraries have to be prevented from being used insufficiently due to ignorance and reduced to an institution just functioning in the interest of information and documentation.

Within the special library network there is a wide range of smaller and very small libraries, and far more than half of these libraries employs one non-professional librarian only. Therefore both training, advanced education and exchange of experience with librarians of libraries of the same type representing the same special field play an important part.

The rapid development of science and technology and the increasing production of printed items associated with it indispensably require co-operation between special libraries in order to make effective library work possible. The point, however, is to develop highly efficient forms of organization by means of as few personnel and material as possible.

Summary

In addition to the public state libraries and the general research libraries the special libraries are one of the main pillars of the GDR librarianship. Under the Library Act the functions of the particular ministries the libraries are subordinated to have been clearly defined. The Library Act also requires the efficient use of libraries in the interest of the socialist society and assigns the responsibility for planning and management of the libraries including their methodical instruction to the particular ministries. At the same time under the Library Act the governing bodies are obliged to apply the principle of co-operation beyond their spheres. A rational development of special librarianship, its methodical instruction and the development of a co-operation within special library networks and according to territories involve all the prerequisites required to solve the above-mentioned problems special libraries have to face. In the near future it will be our duty to put through consistently the Library Act and its implementation regulations on every level, to improve the co-operation of librarians and information specialists based on division of labour and the training of the special library staff, especially the staff of smaller institutions.

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IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraires

SECTION: Art Libraries

11/ART/1E

Art Library Associations Worldwide: Their History and Future

by
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ART LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS WORLDWIDE : THEIR HISTORY AND FUTURE

If art libraries did not differ from other libraries, there would be no need for art library associations. If art libraries all over the world were not in some respects similar, there would be no possibility of, or purpose in, an international art library association. It is indeed the ways in which they differ from other libraries which art libraries, differing from one another, have in common, and this, and the special knowledge and skills which are required of those who care for them, is the basis of association between art libraries and art librarians. I propose to examine this briefly, before surveying the history of art library associations, and finally looking into a future in which a primary task of association must be the promotion and preservation of differences.

The uniqueness of the art library has perhaps never been more succinctly expressed than by Trevor Fawcett in an article entitled 'The compleat art librarian, or what it takes', published in the ARLIS Newsletter no 22 March 1975. The art librarian, wrote Fawcett, more than other librarians, has to deal with 'a disparate assortment of materials and media, the result of his involvement with images and varied substitutes for original artefacts as well as with printed texts'. Slides, photographs, and other illustrations; prints and posters; films and videotapes;

exhibition catalogues, in quantity and variety; sales catalogues; books and portofolios 'in every possible format'; the book as artwork; examples of graphic design from books to beer mats; and, for the designer, samples, trade literature, standards and patents - all of these can be found in art libraries. And, as Fawcett proceeds to argue, 'This very diversity brings practical difficulties in its wake and already throws into doubt the proposition that the art librarian can disassociate himself from the functional side of library work'. The acquisition of such materials, their organisation, exploitation, and conservation, each poses problems and may demand specialized knowledge.

But, says Fawcett, this is only part of the problem. 'The visual arts shares with other subjects in the humanities a long perspective of literature. A significant proportion of past writing about art is still valid or partly valid, and in a sense none of it is really superseded . . . ' So the art librarian 'has to know about, and know how to obtain, non-current out-of-print literature, which means that he must be concerned actively with the antiquarian book trade and perhaps the auction houses as well. It also follows that he will need some of the skills and erudition of the rare book librarian'.

At the same time, Fawcett goes on to say, the arts become increasingly international; and at this point Fawcett's text becomes so pertinent to my present purpose, so felicitously to the point, that I have no hesitation in quoting at length:

> 'Essential literature may be published not only in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, but in Russian or Swedish or Dutch or Greek or many less accessible languages. Important exhibitions are staged in Auckland, Tel Aviv, Anchorage, Sao Paolo or Tokyo. The insufficient - though now improving - bibliographical control of this international literature, and the short period some of it remains in print (some exhibition catalogues failing even to last out their exhibition), can complicate and frustrate acquisition. Nor are all the important books and catalogues necessarily issued by commercial publishers and established galleries. The ideal art librarian needs not only to be polyglot, he has to have a grapevine round the world - part of it underground'.

'A grapevine round the world . . .' There is a motif for our contemplation, and one I shall come back to - but I have not extracted all I can from Fawcett's text yet, as indeed he proceeds to say, 'we are still far from done'. The greatest challenge to the art librarian, and not the least aspect of any art library worth the name, lies in 'the sheer compass of the visual arts : in their internal variety, in geographical extent, in historical time, and in their rich network of affiliations with other subjects'. Art includes landscape gardening and comic strips, the stitching of a quilted bedcover and, I suppose, the design of a nuclear missile . . . and each and every manifestation of 'art' is embedded in the fabric of a society, in time and space; in all probability cannot altogether be divorced from psychological, religious, political and socio-economic considerations; and, unless it is purely conceptual, borrows its physical properties from the realm of science and technology. Finally, the inhabited world in its widest geographical extent and from the dawn of civilisation has a claim on the scope of the art library; Fawcett paraphrases Dr Johnson :

Let observation with extensive view
Survey the arts, from China to Peru

and he concludes: 'The art library, because the idea of art spills out in all directions, is continually straining to become a universal library with an art core. Whoever is responsible for it needs to be the most dedicated of specialists and the most outward-looking generalist'. The case for the art librarian has never been better made.

Thus Fawcett identified the 'extraordinarily wide framework' in which the art librarian operates, and the art librarian's involvement with disparate materials, including visual images in general and in profusion, and images and artefacts which record, or are, works of art, as perhaps the most crucial ways in which art libraries differ from other libraries. This means that art librarians have their own perspective on problems which other librarians too are familiar with : bibliographical control, acquisition, organisation, display, and conservation of materials, for instance, and also user education. Can we in fact go further and assert that art libraries are used differently from other libraries, remembering that their users may include avant-garde artists and aged professors, delicate watercolourists and shocking illustrators, designers of exclusive clothes, and designers of aids for the handicapped, schoolchildren, teachers, amateurs, professionals? I would suggest that, yes, even at the 'academic' level, use of the art library is likely to be characterised by a notable incidence of browsing, at least where this is possible and encouraged, as distinct from, and of course as well as, the retrieving of specific sought items via bibliographies and catalogues. Indeed the art historian Peter Murray has argued that serendipity, the knack of making discoveries apparently by accident, is 'an essential part of the art historian's equipment' and one he will use as much in the library as in the museum or gallery. This type of library use can contribute significantly to the atmosphere of the art library and to the dynamics of the librarian's relationship with users of the library; on the other hand it can of course be frustrated, or prevented altogether, as for instance by the scattering of related subject material by other criteria; or by the housing of material in compact storage units or on closed access.

So much for the basis for association between art libraries and art librarians - a variety of disparate materials among which visual images flourish; the impossibly wide compass of art - but who would wish it narrower?; and the extent to which use of art libraries tends not to be a matter of more or less mechanical retrieval of specified items, drawing the art librarian, with his or her special knowledge, into an active relationship with library users in which knowledge is complemented by serendipity. Are artists, or art students, much the same everywhere? Probably only insofar as they are not the same anywhere; but certainly I have had the experience of walking into a small art college library on my other side of the world - in Canberra - and feeling immediately at home.

The history of the various associations of art libraries is fairly well documented now, and I intend to survey it only briefly, concentrating on the whole picture rather than on detail.

In retrospect, it is easy to distinguish three types or models of association: the formation of art sections within national library associations; the formation of independent art library associations; and networks or cooperation involving art libraries but in effect excluding art librarians as individuals.

The history of art library association stretches back at least to 1924 when an Art Reference Round Table, later to become an Art Subsection, was founded within the American Library Association. An Art Libraries Committee within the Canadian Libraries Association was founded much later, in 1967; in the same year French art librarians sought to create a special section for art libraries within the Association des Bibliothecaires Francais, this section commencing activities in November, 1967. The work of this association of French art libraries was outlined by Jacqueline Viaux at Manila last year when she stressed the advantages of this type of association within an association: one is prevented from 'staying in an ivory tower and ignoring the broader problems of the profession', for instance. Madame Viaux also suggested that 'in countries where there are few specialised organisations, the French solution could serve as a model', a recommendation that is worth keeping in mind. Here in the German Democratic Republic there has existed since 1971 a Subsection devoted to ar and literature within the national library association.

In the United Kingdom, ARLIS, the Art Libraries Society, was founded in 1969, 'to promote art librarianship particularly by acting as a forum for the interchange of information and materials'. ARLIS, or ARLIS/UK, was the first independent association of art libraries and librarians; from the first it admitted personal as well as institutional or corporate members. The history of ARLIS has been recounted often enough, most recently by myself in my absence at Manila. The formation of ARLIS/North America, or ARLIS/NA, followed, and these two societies affiliated in 1973. Again, documentation is not lacking. Then came ARLIS/ANZ, the Art Libraries Society of Australia and New Zealand: three ARLIS's, in some respects modelled closely on one another, but two faced with the problem of enormous distances separating their members. The history of ARLIS/ANZ is less well known : following an informal meeting initiated by Joyce McGrath during the Library Association of Australia conference at Melbourne in 1975, an inaugural meeting took place in Sydney in August 1976. Although independent of the LAA, ARLIS/ANZ holds its conferences at the same time and place as the LAA, a sensible and practical response to the problem of gathering as many members together as possible in spite of distance and expense. While ARLIS/NA has developed a strong network of local or regional 'chapters', ARLIS/ANZ looks to informal regional groups of art librarians to supply, one after the other, its executive, so that all officers are relatively close at hand at any one time. A fourth ARLIS announced in 1977, ARLIS/Sweden, is understood to be a very informal association about which further information would be welcome.

Finally, it is perhaps relevant to note those networks of major art libraries which exist for instance both here in the German Democratic Republic, and in the Federal Republic of Germany, the latter extended to include art libraries in Florence and Rome. These networks do not, of course, allow for personal membership; nor do they attempt to include all art libraries; rather, they should be seen as the creation of a coordinated art library service at the national level by means of federation, and as such they are viewed by those of us in the United Kingdom with something akin to envy. In Britain some such organisation of art libraries of national importance is sorely needed, as ARLIS/UK has made clear, but it would not take the place of ARLIS; on the contrary, ARLIS would be needed all the more as the organisation of all art libraries and librarians, and, one would hope, as a potent influence on the national art library service.

Of course, several of these developments in different countries drew from one another's inspiration and example : visits took place, correspondence was exchanged, and in particular the ARLIS Newsletter, published by ARLIS/UK, gained readers in many countries and published articles on activities of art librarians in North America and in France, and on art libraries and art library networks in France and in East and West Germany. ARLIS/UK welcomed overseas subscribers to the Newsletter but only later introduced a category of overseas membership; it is to the credit of ARLIS/NA that from its inception it accepted members from all countries and so has some claim to have been the first international art library association; certainly its Newsletter too has helped the formation of international links and the dissemination of information concerning art librarianship and the literature of art worldwide. But in 1976 two events of matchless significance took place. First, ARLIS/UK hosted a first international conference of art librarians at Brighton, planned in association with ARLIS/NA and attended by delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Eire, France, Germany, Holland, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA; and secondly, at that conference ARLIS/UK launched the first issue of the Art Libraries Journal, intended in particular to take over and develop the international role which the ARLIS Newsletter had found itself fulfilling. And it was from the conference that there came the initiative which brought about the IFLA Art Libraries Round Table.

These are but the bare bones of a history which has been written elsewhere. Behind it is to be found the enthusiasm, professionalism, and vision of individuals, of whom two stand out. Both ARLIS/NA, and the early drive towards international association, benefitted beyond measure from the boundless energy and determination of Judy Hoffberg. But that international association finally took place within IFLA, and that it has subsequently gone from strength to strength, is due in no small part to Jacqueline Viaux, and it will not have escaped your attention that of those models of association we have noted, it is what we may call the French model which the IFLA Art Libraries Round Table most closely resembles: an association within an association, it is one to which individuals, libraries, and library associations can all belong; one, too, which promises to keep us all from self-imprisonment in ivory towers; and one which, it is fervently to be hoped, can lend of its strength - the strength of IFLA - to countries in which libraries and librarianship are relatively weak.

Some of the continuing and future tasks of the Art Libraries Round Table were sketched in Manila and will be discussed during this Congress; furthermore, recent developments intended to enhance the international role of the Art Libraries Journal, which have involved close cooperation between ARLIS/UK and ARLIS/NA, new arrangements for distribution of the Journal to members of the latter organisation, and a generous and positive commitment to the Journal on the part of ARLIS/NA, will, I am sure, receive the attention they deserve at the session at Leipzig which is to be devoted to publications on art librarianship. What I would like to do in this third and final section of my paper, is to draw attention to one long term and indeed unending responsibility of this or any international art library association as I see it. And that has to do, less with the ways in which art libraries differ from other libraries, more with ways in which art libraries can and should differ from one another especially according to country and locality.

Speaking to ARLIS members on the library needs of the art historian, several years ago, Peter Murray put forward the suggestion that libraries in provincial centres, such as, in England, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, and Bristol, can assist art historical research by collecting and making available material, including photographs, 'dealing not only with local history, as most of them already have, but also with specifically local manifestations of the arts, for example, textiles in Manchester, and pottery in Leeds or in other pottery towns' (ARLIS Newsletter no 23 June 1975). The rise of design history as a discipline in its own right is certain to draw further attention to the need to locate and preserve such source material as the archives of local craftsmen, designers, industries, and so on. But it is not only history for the historian which I have in mind; the past and the present of every cultural tradition must be kept alive, so far as possible, for its present and its future, or that tradition will die and perhaps leave little trace behind it. The practising artist, whoever and wherever he may be, will be immeasurably the poorer if he is without roots in a tradition which is in some way his 'own', and I'd like to suggest that a vital task for the art library, is to help to preserve awareness of, and to promote a sense of 'belonging to', native traditions. So I am talking now of history for the present, for the future, for the enrichment and use of the artist and designer, and for the art student not least whose voyage of discovery through art college should be helped to be a voyage towards his or her own identity. In the field of architecture and design, local traditions have their own messages for the practitioner, for the present, in terms of both aesthetic and practical appropriateness to the spirit of the place. Every tradition embodies the lessons of centuries of experience and experiment, involving locally available materials, local conditions, a way of life.

In practical terms what I am getting at is this. That an art library in Australia, say, ought to be biassed in favour of Australian art. That it is only right and proper for an art library in Edinburgh, Sydney, or Dresden, say, to be concerned to document the response of artists to their city, the contribution of architects to its appearance, the artefacts produced by its craftsmen. That English art libraries should attend to the continuing Englishness of English art. That the art librarian should attend to his or her locality, and should, if necessary, move into an active role so far as documentation is concerned, mounting an exhibition, publishing a catalogue, commissioning or taking photographs, seeking out archival material relating to a local artist or a local workshop.

The growth of international association between art libraries and art librarians is splendid; but what we must guard against is any danger of art libraries resembling each other unnecessarily, while, if we are to gain collective strength on an international basis, that strength should be used to preserve vital differences, and, for instance, to combat the international strategies of publishers who are only too happy to sell to all of us more and more copies of more and more books covering the same old well-worn subjects, illustrated with only too familiar plates. We should be able to say, 'No, we don't need any more books on Picasso, but we do need a book on this neglected artist or that scarcely noticed flourishing of a distinct culture among a tribe here, a minority group there'. Or, we ought to be able to call effectively for a magazine devoted to English art, on the lines of, say, Arts Canada or Art in Australia. For as librarians, we can provide a market, source materials, facilities for research, even, from our own ranks, authors; we are not as nothing when it comes to book production. And while each library builds upon its local 'bias', the other side of the coin has to be a degree of willingness to set local traditions in national and worldwide contexts, to try within limits to see the art of other countries whole and inclusive of their neglected artists and minority cultures. Less familiar work from other traditions may indeed come as a breath of air not least to the creative artist, and it would be a fine thing if the Art Libraries Round Table could foster the exchange of materials; of, for instance, posters, leaflets, labels, and so forth, between libraries concerned with graphic design - what I can pick up easily and for no cost in Preston may well be of interest and a curiosity in Nairobi or New York.

Where a living tradition, or the relics of a dead one, are disappearing or threatened, there is need for especial urgency. Where indeed a living tradition which has life in it yet, is threatened by political or other forces of oppression, there may be especial need for the strength of a collective, an international, voice; for wide networks of cooperation to save what can be saved, perhaps on the far side of a border, perhaps by means of a 'grapevine around the world . . . part of it underground'. At the present time we all have a grave responsibility both to the Third World and to that Fourth World of cultures, such as those of the American Indians, the Maoris, or the Australian aborigines, of racial minorities, or, in some societies, of women, for instance, which struggle to maintain their identity in ghettos or like shadows alongside a dominant mode. Then again, a curiosity of our 'global village' is the way in which fragments and evidences of cultures may be recorded hundreds of miles away, and maybe not at all on the spot. Or documented far from home, they may be found with delight by a refugee from that very place. In my own experience I have been able to help a student of African origin rediscover a little of his cultural roots, and a student from a Mediterranean country to find evidence of his native architectural heritage in the pages of Architectural Review.

IFLA has acknowledged its responsibility to the Third World, and the Art Libraries Round Table should follow its lead. Above all, it must not be assumed that the kind of art library, or the kind of art library materials, which we are accustomed to, can be 'appropriate' to developing countries. It might be absurd to expect the lavish art book, a product of Western affluence, typically documenting Western achievement, to provide the staple fare in art libraries in the Third World. It has already been shown how some Third World libraries have become repositories of inappropriate art publications, in some cases because of misguided purchasing by expatriate librarians, in others because of well-intentioned donations. If there are, or are to be, art libraries in the Third World, such libraries probably ought to be heavily involved in encouraging, or undertaking, indigenous publishing; if we can help, it may be by assisting the distribution, and promoting the purchase of, publications from Third World countries, documenting their traditions. If art libraries can be justified in developing countries, then probably they should reflect a concept of art as tied up with a whole way of life, inseparable from craft, thus inseparable from survival, and at the same time very possibly vital to a country's identity, its consciousness and presentation of itself. To even begin to think in these terms is to be challenged - challenged to reconsider the scope of our own art libraies, and I speak here at least for Western Europe and the English-speaking developed countries: libraries which place a colossal emphasis on what we have come to call 'fine' art in the European tradition, at the expense of primitive and Oriental art, contemporary art of the Third World and of the Communist bloc, not least, of our own 'folk' arts and the whole area of design and craft. This catalogue of comparative neglect adds up to a near-comprehensive, elitist neglect of those arts which have always been least separable from everyday life. There is already evidence of a tendency on the part of the literate elites in the Third World to follow, or be influenced by, approaches to art distorted by considerations of investment and the isolation of artworks in galleries, and to neglect, partly through induced shame, their own indigenous culture.

Some little time ago, in the wake of the publication of a book called Library power, I published a paper which I called 'Art library power' (Assistant Librarian June 1975). The power of art libraries, properly conceived and exercised, is a creative power - the power to nurture the appreciation and practice of the arts, to help release the artist in everyman, to preserve the identity of and to constantly revivify all those living traditions whose variety enriches the world we live in. But of course, where power exists it can be abused, deliberately, or through thoughtlessness. By with-holding or not acquiring certain material, or by providing inappropriate material, the art library can become a force of cultural imperialism and oppression. The growth of an international art library association, of a 'grapevine round the world', must, if art libraries keep faith with the nature of art, mean out and out war on that kind of 'internationalism' which in the arts means sameness and cultural death.

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IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries
SECTION: Administrative Libraries

20/ADM/1E

Exchange and Bibliography of Danish Official Publications

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IFLA

Section of Administrative Libraries

Exchange and bibliography of Danish official publications

By way of introduction I should like to say a few words about the activities of the Danish Exchange Institute, IDE, which is in charge of the exchange and bibliography of official publications in Denmark.

IDE is a government institution, founded in 1946 with the aim of centralising and extending the exchange of learned publications between Denmark and foreign countries.

The Institute carries out the following activities:

1) Exchange of doctoral theses and other publications of the University of Copenhagen.

2) A very considerable centralised exchange of duplicates

3) Exchange of commercial periodicals and the publications of the Bureau of the National librarian, to which IDE pertains.

4) IDE has a forwarding service for Danish government institutions.

5) The exchange of official publications is centralised in IDE and

6) the compilation of the annual bibliography on Danish official publications takes place there.

Definition of official publications

Many attempts have been made to arrive at a definition of official publications. According to the Unesco Convention Concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents of 1958 publications are considered official publications and government documents when they are "executed by the order and at the expense of any governmental authority: parliamentary documents, reports and journals and other legislative papers, administrative publications and reports from central, federal and regional governmental bodies..."

In the general exchange of official publications this definition is taken in its widest sense, also including research results and all other material from every type of governmental body, and according to the definition publications are regarded as official when issued or commissioned by government institutions which defray the expense of the publication.

Likewise the word publication is defined broadly as to the appearance of the publications to include, not only books and issues of periodicals but also pamphlets, folders, graphs, charts, maps, microfilms and microfiches and material printed by near-print processes.

Main categories of official publications

Official publications fall into 5 main categories:

1) Publications of Parliament and dependent institutions and other legislative material.

2) Publications of ministries.

3) Publications of institutions under the jurisdiction of the ministries.

4) Publications of local authorities such as counties and districts.

5) Semi-official publications i.e. publications subsidised by governmental institutions or ministries or publications of quasi-governmental institutions.

Publications of the ministries

The 2nd group, the publications of the ministries, is the one which in all countries causes the greatest difficulties in respect of getting a fair coverage, both for bibliographic control, for availability to the reader, and for exchange purposes.

In Denmark only a few of the publications of the ministries are periodical. Many of them are not printed by traditional methods and are consequently not covered by the legal deposit law. A great number of them are considered internal by the issuing bodies though they may be of wide interest.

Often the various offices and the library of a ministry are unaware which publications are published by their own ministry. Various offices publish their material by near-print methods and consider it internal and not fit for wider distribution.

Even in countries with a central publishing agency for government publications, as for instance the U.S. Government Printing Office, many publications of this kind have only a very restricted circulation.

As mentioned such publications may be of interest not only for the offices and the library of the ministry itself but also for the general public at home and abroad. The importance and interest of a publication is often underestimated by the editors at the time of publication.

A report on the future pattern of Danish education was only published in a few hundred copies and was "sold out" in a very few days, and often the ministries are reluctant to have a sufficient number of copies reprinted.

In order to obtain better knowledge of such publications it is recommendable for offices and libraries of ministries to establish useful contacts in each office willing to collect and distribute the material which has been published.

Danish committee reports

In Denmark the most important monographic publications of the ministries are their Committee reports.

A committee is appointed by a ministry. Its members may be an ad hoc group of civil servants and other relevant specialists which are appointed to deal with one particular problem within a given time.
A committee may also be appointed by law and serve in an advisory capacity to a ministry as a standing committee. The improvements suggested by a committee may result in new or amended laws, in directives or ministerial orders. The proposals may also lead to changes within public administration introducing rationalisations and economies within a given field.

A Danish government office, The Directorate of State Purchases publishes the committee reports and provides them with a uniform size and a running number (now reaching into th 900's). This procedure makes it easier to control the reports, which contain much important information both for research workers and for the common reader.

A few reports are still published not by the directorate but by individual offices. Such reports are unnumbered and are bound to cause much trouble for librarians, particularly the ones which appear in the form of mimeographed material of limited circulation.

Publications of institutions under the jurisdiction of ministries

The 3rd group: publications of institutions pertaining to a ministry cover the greatest number and the widest diversity of a country's output of official publications.

At the present time being approximately 300 different Danish government institutions each bring out at least one publication per year. They range from highly technical and scientific reports of research centres, to information and statistics on a wide variety of topics, popular guides and instructions, and modest annual reports of the activities of small institutions.

The number of such publications has increased steadily over the years as more and more fields of research, cultural life, industry, etc. are taken over by government.

At the same time there is a growing demand for access to official publications both from research workers and from the common reader.

Exchange of official publications

In the following I shall give an account on the procedure by which the Danish Exchange Institute secures Danish official publications for exchange purposes and for the compilation of the annual bibliography on them. IDE has been in charge of these two tasks since 1948.

Denmark has no central government publishing agency like HMSO of the United Kingdom or the Government Printing Office of the United States. In 1945 a committee tried to coordinate and standardize the printing of official publications but the attempt failed.

When parliament, ministries and governmental bodies use private printing firms, they are obliged to submit quotations from printers as well as the final invoice to the Directorate of State Purchases for approval, but apart from this economic control there is no central guiding influence on the printing of official publications. A method which is gaining in use in all government institutions is using their own printing or duplicating services.

This system involves that the official publications must be acquired either by copyright deposit or from the issuing offices. IDE follows the latter procedure and has a right to requisition exchange copies.

In the course of more than 30 years' work IDE has succeeded in being entered on the mailing list of most Danish governmental bodies, and approximately 60 % of the publications due are sent in automatically on publication. But we have found it necessary to make at least one direct contact every year.

By means of the Danish State Handbook a check is made as to newly created institutions, abolition of existing institutions and change of ministerial jurisdiction.

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On December 1st we send out a circular letter to all governmental bodies asking them to inform us on their publications of the year, printed or multigraphed, and to send in the material not already received. If nothing has been published, we ask the institutions to send in a statement to that effect.

The circular letter cites the Unesco Convention to which Denmark adhered in 1965 and the public decree according to which IDE is entitled to receive exchange copies. We state the number of exchange copies needed as it varies considerably (from 1-14 copies), and we mention the number of Danish official publications sent abroad on exchange during the previous year and the number of foreign official publications received, approximately 15-20.ooo Danish and 15-20.000 foreign per year.

For information the latest volume of the bibliography on official publications is sent to all government institutions as soon as it is published.

We find it an advantage that the exchange of official publications and the compilation of the bibliography on them are centered in one bureau. This means that you only have to make one contact to claim material for both purposes. Moreover the various government agencies have an interest in seeing their publications listed in the bibliography which makes them more eager to comply with the request for material.

On the other hand there is no possibility of having a cross reference from any institution other than the recipients of legal deposit material.

In its capacity as the national library of Denmark the Royal Library endeavours to establish as complete a collection as possible of the total national output of publications, including non-printed material which is not covered by the Danish law of legal deposit. In order to assist the Royal Library in its efforts to collect such material from government institutions, IDE encloses a reminder from the Royal Library with its yearly circular letter, and once a year invites staff members of the Royal Library to inspect the material handed over to IDE for items of interest to the library.

IDE has concluded agreements on exchange of official publications with 14 countries, among which the U.S., the countries of the European Communities and some overseas countries. These bilateral agreements have been established either in the form of government treaties or of more informal agreements between the exchange partners.

The bilateral agreements establish the choice of official publications to be sent and received. Only one copy of each official publication is included in the exchange with each partner. For periodicals, the choice is made on the basis of bibliographies of official publications or lists of official publications available for exchange.

Denmark has no central library for official publications like the Official Publications Library of the British Library. Lists of foreign official publications are submitted to the Danish research libraries which inform IDE of their desiderata as to periodicals.

The foreign publications are received and registered at IDE and distributed among 60 Danish institutions according to their choice or - for monographs - to their fields of interest, a high degree of specialisation being typical of the Danish research library system. In the distribution priority is given to the most important libraries.

It is possible to include new publications in the exchanges and to cancel publications no longer wanted. New offers from foreign exchange partners are likewise submitted to the Danish libraries. An approximate balance between the number and cost of publications sent and received is aimed at.

At the 60 libraries which receive foreign official publications via IDE, these publications are merged with the holdings of the libraries and entered into their catalogues like any other publication.

The Danish official publications are forwarded to the exchange partners abroad according to the individual agreements.

Bibliography of Danish official publications

The main bibliographical source for Danish (official) publications is the Bibliografi over Danmarks Offentlige Publikationer, Impressa Publica Regni Danici.

Many countries with a well-established library system publish bibliographies of their official publications either as special bibliographies or by including the official publications in the national bibliography itself and marking them out as official publications.

For the Danish bibliography the editors aim at complete coverage but are well aware that it is an utopian ideal. It goes witout saying that publications of a confidential and internal character are not included in the bibliography. The same holds true of the semi-official publications and the publications of counties and districts apart from those of the two largest municipalities, København and Århus.

A control is made by checking the national bibliography, Dansk Bogfortegnelse, which lists a great many official publications without indicating them as such, except in so far as publishers given in each entry can be identified as government agencies. Useful source of information is formed by the annual reports of government institutions which often list the publications of the institution concerned.

The bibliography is used by domestic and foreign libraries as an identification source, and it serves as an exchange list for IDEs partners. It is sold on commission at Bibliotekscentralen, the Danish Library Bureau, and IDE uses it as exchange material.

Disposition of the bibliography

The publications listed in the bibliography are arranged in order of ministry and institution.

In each section monographs are listed after the serial publications - both in alphabetical order.

A special feature of the bibliography is the inclusion of a complete list of Danish Doctoral dissertations. Most of these have been subsidised by government funds, but also non-subsidised dissertations are included in the list.

The bibliography is provided with four indexes:

1) Index of titles of periodicals and institutions. The index gives both the official title of an institution and the common denomination, for instance Musikkonservatoriet and Det kgl. danske Musikkonservatorium.

2) Subject index.

3) Index of persons.

4) List in English of main entries of subject index and important institutions.

IFLAs work with official publications

To conclude I shall mention the attention which has been given to official publications by IFLA.

In 1964 a Sub-Commission on official publications was established and in 1969 it acquired the status of an independent committee.

It has published two editions of a survey of the manner in which the official publications are acquired and exchanged in 40 countries.

Under the auspicies of the committee a handbook on official publications of Western Europe is in preparation. The first volume will deal with the EC-countries, the second one with the remaining countries.

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IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries

SECTION:

Round Table of Art Librarians

30/ART/2E

Art Libraries in the GDR

by
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Art Libraries in the German Democratic Republic

Heavy losses had occurred during World War II and tremendous efforts had been made to overcome this terrible heritage. Today art libraries in the GDR do have a significant stock again of monographies and journals. Tremendous financial means are provided every years to not only complete the technical equipment of the libraries, but also to develop the stock.

It is very typical for GDR art libraries not to store pieces of art. Most of them had been passed to the museums. Apart from a few paintings and sculptures, serving more or less the purpose of representation, only original graphics and illuminations in books are left for the stocks of art libraries.

In the GDR we have the following art libraries:

The centre for state fine art collections is the
- Sächsische Landesbibliothek Dresden.

Other representative and special libraries are
- the Zentralbibliothek der Staatlichen Museen in Berlin
  (Central Library of State Museums in Berlin)
- Zentrale Kunstbibliothek der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden
  (Central Art Library of the State Art Collections in Dresden)
- Zentrale Bibliothek der Akademie der Künste der DDR, Berlin
  (Central Library of the Academy of Arts of the GDR, Berlin)
- Bibliothek des Museums für bildende Künste, Leipzig
  (Library of the Museum for Fine Arts, Leipzig)

- Bibliothek des Museums für Kunsthandwerk (Grassi-Museum), Leipzig
  (Library of the Museum of Art Trade)
- Bibliothek des Staatlichen Lindenau-Museums, Altenburg
- Staatliche Bücher- und Kupferstich-sammlung, Greiz
  (State Books and Copper Plate Collection)
- Bibliothek der Staatlichen Galerie Moritzburg, Halle
  (Library of the State Gallery Moritzburg)
- Zentrale Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek des Bauwesens der Bauakademie der DDR, Berlin
  (Central Library of Construction of the Academy of Construction of the GDR, Berlin)
- Libraries at universities and art schools
- Libraries of the institutes for monument preservation. 1)

Additionally, a tremendous large stock of art literature is be found in some of the big public research libraries, which, of course, outdo the small special libraries and are of great benefit to art scientists.

As mentioned before, the Sächsische Landesbibliothek Dresden 2) became the centre for state fine art collections, according to a plan which came into force in 1956, and concentrates on the preservation of art science (and music science) literature. Out of the 1.3 million volumes of the total stock there are about 100 000 special volumes of art literature. It is no coincident that in Dresden, the city of arts, the

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fine arts have always been generously preserved in this library which was founded in 1556. This is a tradition which is fully accepted, taken up, and continued by the socialist state.

The Special Group Fine Arts at the Sächsische Landesbibliothek concentrates, according to their plan, on becoming an effective centre for all art libraries and art scientists in the GDR. Their major activities are reflected in the three complexes:

- printed bibliographies
- systematic cataloguing and special bibliographic information
- preservation of literary remains.

Since 1973 the library publishes the "Bibliographie Bildende Kunst" 3) (Bibliography Fine Art) which informs about all the art literature issued in the GDR and all the literature on art in the German Democratic Republic, which is published abroad. As an average, more than 5300 titles are registered every year in the issues. This work is amended by the " Bibliographie illustrierter Bücher" 4). (Bibliography of Illustrated Books).

In 1975 it was started to establish a stock index of art journals, which comprises the stocks of special libraries and big public research libraries of the GDR.

The Sächsische Landesbibliothek does not only make efforts to develop a comprehensive special stock, but also tries to make accessible this special stock in a differentiated and systematic manner. More than in any other library the various aspects of a publication (technique, iconography, illustrators, etc.) are included and developed in the systematic catalogue.

Whilst the fine art at the Sächsische Landesbibliothek is integrated into the universitas litterarum, the following collections are pure special libraries:

The largest collection is the Zentralbibliothek der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin [5] (Central Library of the State Museums in Berlin), which was founded in 1830. Today, this library is in charge of 15 collections within the Berlin museums. Consequently, there is a very wide spectrum of the individual collections, comprising a total stock of 130 000 volumes, and which are partly stored in the Central Library itself, but also in the reference libraries.
As many as 18 000 volumes on paintings ans sculptures of the 19th and 20th centuries are located in the rooms of the National Gallery. War losses of about 38 per cent of the total stock could be balanced out since the end of World War II to a great extent.

The most significant stock on the international scale are works dealing with Egyptian, Islamic, East Asian and Indian art and archeology, with numismatics, with museology itself, with the restoration of pieces of art, and museum pedagogy. The archeological stock is so complete that it can be compared with stocks in London and Paris.

A similar function as the Berlin library is executed by the Zentrale Kunstbibliothek der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden [6] (Central Art Library of the State Art Collections), to which 11 museums are attached. This library was founded in 1946, however, considering the location and the stock, it is the successor of the State Art Trade Library founded in 1876. In 1936 this library had counted 32 000 volumes and therefore it used to be the second largest library in Germany after the Berlin library. During World War II the library lost 90 per cent of its stock. Only a small collection of 157 800 sheets from all fields of the free and applied art as well as a collection of original graphics of 35 000 sheets could be saved. Nevertheless, today the library owns again 50 000 volumes out of which 3/5 are be found in the reference libraries. Especially well developed stocks are available in the fields of numismatics, archeology, and costumes. The collections of exhibition and auction catalogues are worth mentioning.

Let me name some more significant libraries which are characteristic for their interesting special stocks.

In Berlin there is the Zentrale Bibliothek der Akademie der Künste. It was founded in 1950 and collects literature on art history of the 20th century, complete materials about members of the Academy of Arts, prize winners and master pupils.

The Staatliche Bücher- und Kupferstichsammlung Greiz [7] (State Book and Copper Plate Collection) is proud of its collection of drawings in mezzotinto which is the world's second largest collection of this kind after the one in the British Museum. The collection consists of about 1 200 sheets chiefly on English history and 800 portraits, mainly after works of J. Reynold. To this collection other pieces of graphic art were added, e.g. English, French and German caricatures of the 18th to the 20th century. Today this collection comprises about 10 000 sheets.

The Lindenau-Museum (in Altenburg) owns 14 000 volumes chiefly on early Italian panel painting and on antique vase painting. The Bibliothek des Museums der bildenden Künste (Leipzig) (Library of the Museum of Fine Arts) is famous for its rich stock in first editions of historic writings and for its guide-books on art. This library was founded by members of the Art Association, which was established in 1837.
The Library of the Leipzig Highschool for Graphic and Book Art owns about 25 000 volumes on graphic art, book art, typography, photography, as well as a collection of facsimili reproductions of old masters (Reichsdruckerei)
The Grassi-Museum can be proud of its 27 000 volumes on art trade of all times and all countries.

Worth mentioning is also the Leipzig Library of the Editorial Staff of the General Encyclopedia of Fine Artists from the antique up to the present-day, founded by Ulrich Thieme and Felix Becker. Their stock comprises about 20 000 volumes and consists of numerous reference books and rare national encyclopedia on artists.

The stocks of the Institutes for Monument Preservation, especially in Dresden and Halle, are very famous in the field of restoration and art topography.

I should also mention the Zentralbibliothek der deutschen Klassik in Weimar (Central Library of German Classics), which stores very important stocks on art history of the Classics and the Antique and Renaissance preferred by the Classics.

Two more public research libraries should be listed here, since they are of tremendous benefit for art libraries.
The University Library in Leipzig works out the "Bibliographie der Auktionskataloge" [8] (Bibliography of Auction Catalogues) and the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig, which represents the archive of all German language writings since 1911, issues quarterly the "Bibliographie der Kunstblätter" since 1943.

Art libraries are organized within the Subsection Literature, Language and Art of the Section Social Science Libraries within the Library Association of the GDR. The subsection came into being in 1972 after corresponding preparations. Today this subsection comprises about 120 libraries in the cultural policy, cultural science, literature science, linguistics, fine arts, theatre, as well as radio, film and TV.

The subsection bears a very high social as well as ideological responsibility. From this responsibility all the individual tasks can be derived, which have always been in the focal point of the hitherto activities:

- cooperation in the field of acquisitions
- information on new acquisitions, lending service and new journals
- improvement of library organisation, technology and methodology
- scientific archive preservation and making known the cultural heritage to the public
- further training of technical and other staff.

From the very beginning even the smallest libraries were integrated, because especially here great opportunities open up to exchange experiences and views among the various members.

Altogether, six conferences had taken place, in Weimar, Dresden, Berlin and Bad Lauchstedt, in which about 60 librariens had participated. The themes discussed during those conferences were very different. The specific tasks of member libraries within the subsection, the possibilities of socialist cooperation and the establishment of a special net had been especially discussed. A discussed problem was the introduction of new rules for alphabetic cataloguing (RAK) as well as bibliographic work in the GDR in the fields of literature, art, theatre and film science. Of a special success were the last two conferences in 1977 and 1980 with the theme "Libraries and the

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Cultural Heritage in the Socialist Society". First theoretical fundaments of the heritage and its cultural political significance were discussed. Later practical examples were given on how we preserve the cultural heritage in practice.

Three training courses of each one week had been organized in the advanced training centre in Gotha. The themes to be dealt with were "Theory and Methodology of "Research Tendencies in Art Science", "New Tendencies in Art of the GDR". The third training course was especially organized for staff without library experience. The theme was "Fundaments for Staff of Special Libraries".
With all training courses it was noted that the capacity of 25 participants was too small.
In the future we intend, apart from continuing the before mentioned activities, to cooperate much closer with smaller libraries as well as the public research libraries. They should be integrated into the managing work of the subsection to a by far greater extent, not only by holding the regular sessions in their facilities.
Furthermore, it is intended to organize a special seminar of art libraries (museum libraries), which is to serve the registration of stock, but also the special problems of this very specific field of the subsection.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries

SECTION: Biological & Medical Libraries

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The role of the Medical Library Association in education, standards, and other support services of members

by
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THE ROLE OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION IN EDUCATION, STANDARDS, AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

The Medical Library Association (MLA) was founded in 1898 with the express objectives of providing a mechanism for the exchange of information and library materials among medical libraries. Originally conceived as an organization of libraries, it has evolved into an association comprised of both individuals (two-thirds) and institutions (one-third). Among its major emphases are the exchange of materials among health science libraries, the exchange of information of importance to the efficient operation of health sciences libraries of all sizes and types, the education of professional librarians working in health sciences-related organizations, and the development of standards and guidelines to affect improvements in professional practice. The chief goal of the Association is the improvement of information systems and services in support of research, instruction, and practice of the health sciences. This paper outlines the activities and roles of the Medical Library Association in the areas of materials exchange, education and certification of health sciences librarians, and in the development of standards and guidelines for library service. The paper also poses some of the problems related to each of these activities and roles. Prior consideration of some of the problems discussed may prove useful to professional library and information associations that may be planning to embark upon similar activities.

The Exchange

The oldest MLA service to members is the Exchange. Indeed, the Exchange is mandated in the original charter and bylaws of the Association, which state that "the purpose of the Medical Library Association is to provide an exchange of duplicate materials among medical libraries." The Exchange is accomplished by means of a periodic list of materials submitted (currently 6 times per year) by those member libraries who wish to donate materials to other member libraries. The service is available to institutional members only. Lists are sent to MLA's headquarters where they are compiled, reproduced, and distributed free to all institutional members of the Association. A subscription to the Exchange is considered to be part of an institutional member's dues. Last year, this service cost MLA about $25,000, or $23.00 per institutional member. Members must then communicate with the donor libraries about their needs. This is usually done by letter or postal card. The Exchange is managed by a committee of the Association, which has established rules for its conduct. These rules are intended to ensure that all institutional members of the Association have an equal chance to obtain materials. Of course, exact equality cannot be guaranteed, but a definite date for sending out materials ensures at least that those libraries that want an item have a chance to request it from the donor library independent of the reliability of postal delivery. Particular attention is now being paid to the problem that non-North American institutional members of MLA have been having in participating in the Exchange, and an ad hoc committee has been formed to investigate various aspects of improved delivery both of the List itself and of the documents requested by non-North American members.

Another problem with the Exchange List is inherent in its format. Donor lists are compiled and reproduced as received; each donor list is alphabetically arranged within itself. No attempt is made to combine the lists to produce a single alphabetized list of titles. Since the average Exchange List contains donations from 35-50 libraries, a librarian using the List to fill in gaps in a collection or acquire materials on a subject previously not in his/her collection must be willing to scan 35-50 alphabets in each Exchange List received. This is, of course, a very time-consuming task, especially for a librarian with little or no staff assistance, as is the case in many small hospital libraries. The Association has long been acutely aware of this problem, and is investigating possibilities for a computerized system for the Exchange List. Ideally, this system would allow for combining lists from donor libraries, adding "want" lists from libraries seeking materials, matching donor lists with want lists, and producing coded mailing labels for the donor libraries to use in distributing materials from their stocks. On-line access should be a feature of the system.

While MLA has been assured that such a system is technologically feasible, the costs of maintaining the Exchange in this mode are very high, considering the modest cost of the current format. Therefore, investigations continue in the hope of finding a system which is both technologically satisfactory and inexpensive to maintain.

Standards

The Association has long been involved in the development of standards and guidelines for service in health sciences libraries. There are number of committees currently investigating various aspects of this problem. Among them are the Library Standards and Practices Committee, the Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Standards and Practices Committee, the Audio-Visual Standards and Practices Committee and the Hospital Library Standards and Practices Committee. These committees are charged in general with reviewing and analyzing current standards and practices related to their areas of expertise, with serving as clearing houses for such concerns within the Association, and with evaluating the need for the development of guidelines and standards in the various areas of concern. For example, the Hospital Library Standards and Practices Committee has been involved for a number of years in the cooperative effort with the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals to develop standards for the library service in hospital settings. These standards were adopted as guidelines by the Joint Commission and incorporated in its Manual of Accreditation for Hospitals. It should be noted, for those who are not familiar with the Joint Commission, that it is a voluntary body charged with the responsibility for accrediting hospital services in the United States.

The Library Standards and Practices Committee consists of MLA's representatives to various task oriented groups of other associations, including a number of special consultants who deal with standards. The committee is charged with considering national library operational standards and practices in the context of health sciences library requirements. It serves as a coordinating body to ensure that the interests of health sciences libraries are considered in the development of standards. The committee includes MLA's representatives to the Council of National Library and Information Associations; the American National Standards Institute Committees Z39 and Z85, and the American Library Association's Resources and Technical Services Division Catalog Revision Committee. In addition, other members of the Association with specific interests in the development of standards are appointed at large to this committee.

The Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Standards and Practices Committee and the Audio-Visual Standards and Practices Committee concentrate on coordinating matters of interest in the area of interlibrary loan and resource sharing and audio-visual services as they affect health sciences libraries. All in all, this group of committees provides very valuable service to MLA's members; in that they attempt to ensure that the interest of health sciences librarians are considered whenever standards and practices related to library services are being discussed.

While the work of the standards and practices committees of the Association has proved to be very valuable to the Association's members over the years, it is not without its own problems. It is sometimes difficult to convince members who are not involved with the construction of standards and guidelines, as well as those who serve on the committees involved, that a great deal of effort needs to be made to ensure that the interest of health sciences librarians are considered in the construction of standards and guidelines. However, MLA itself has no capability to enforce guidelines or standards once they have been adopted. Acceptance and use of standards and guidelines developed by this or any other Association is normally a matter of negotiation and not of enforcement.

Continuing Education

For the past 23 years, one of the most well-known and popular of MLA's services to members has been its Continuing Education Program. The program began in 1958 with the offering by volunteers of several brief refresher courses for members at the Association's annual meeting. Since that time the Continuing Education Program has grown in complexity to include a professional staff at headquarters, a full committee devoted only to the program, greatly expanded course development and examination activities, and the agreement by MLA headquarters to maintain records of continuing education activities, which are linked to the Association's certification program. In addition, the Association is involved in activities to develop instructors for its continuing education courses, and in evaluation and quality control of the courses. At the present time, the course curriculum includes 39 separate courses. These activities are perceived to be particularly important because until 1939 no American Library school offered any courses on medical bibliography or medical librarianship, and as late as 1972 only one in eighteen of accredited American schools was offering courses in the area of health sciences librarianship. In addition, recent surveys have shown that less than one-quarter of the nation's hospital and other health sciences libraries have professionally trained library managers. Many hospital libraries, for example, are staffed by part or full-time clerical employees, who also have other duties within the institutions.

At the present time, responsibility for the training and re-training of health sciences librarians is shared by the library schools, the National Library of Medicine and its Regional Medical Libraries (RMLs), and the Medical Library Association. A number of library schools offer basic courses in various aspects of health sciences librarianship. Under the aegis of the National Library of Medicine, the RMLs have assumed the major responsibility for the basic training of non-professional staff, and MLA has focused its efforts on the continuing education of those who are already in the field. Of the 39 courses currently offered by the Medical Library Association, nearly half are on various aspects of management and administration, but a wide range of topics is covered. In 1980 there were 100 course presentations which reached nearly 2,500 participants. Each of MLA's courses is supplemented by a printed syllabus, which is often quite a comprehensive work in itself. The syllabi are available as separate works from the Association Office at a cost of $10.00 plus postage and handling. In 1972 the strictly voluntary nature of the Association's continuing education program changed, and a Director of Education was appointed at headquarters. The professional staff currently consists of a Director of Education and two senior program officers. One of these coordinates the continuing education courses and the other coordinates the certification program.

From the beginning of the program, the importance of instructors qualified in the subject matter being presented and in adult education methods has been stressed. MLA currently offers a two-day course called Teaching Skills for Library Educators, which is now one component of an extended apprenticeship program for recruiting new instructors in MLA's continuing education activities. In addition to participating in this course, those who would like to become instructors must also take the course that they wish to teach. In some cases, MLA is able to offer potential instructors the opportunity to team-teach the course with experienced instructors before they teach it on their own.

Courses are currently given at MLA's annual meeting and at the meetings of MLA Chapters, and are also offered on various other occasions during the year. In 1980 MLA offered three of its courses at the Fourth International Congress on Medical Librarianship, which was held in Belgrade, (Yugoslavia). In 1979 one course was offered at the joint meeting of the Finnish Research Library Association and the IFLA North European Regional Meeting of the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries. Recently, permission was granted to the Japanese Medical Library Association to translate the syllabus for CE course No. 44 (Library Management/Planning) in order that this course may be presented to medical librarians in Japan. A complete course list and other information on MLA's continuing education courses is available from the Division of Education at MLA Headquarters.

MLA is also interested in cooperating with other associations in presenting continuing education opportunities for its members. For the last two years, a series of MLA courses was presented for public and special librarians in the Chicago, Illinois, area by the Chicago Library System, which partially subsidized the registration fees to encourage the widest possible participation. More than 170 people took advantage of these opportunities.

For the past two years the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association have exchanged courses at each other's annual meetings. In June of 1981 MLA presented a course as a pre-conference seminar at the American Library Association in cooperation with a division of ALA, the Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Services.

The Medical Library Association has experimented with alternative delivery methods of continuing education. In 1979 and 1980 courses have been taught via the University of Wisconsin Extension Program on Educational Telephone Networks and plans are underway for similar offerings in other states. The advantages of these kinds of presentations are many. For example, courses are accessible to an expanded audience, often reaching people who do not have travel funds or release time from their jobs for attendance at meetings. The telephone course allows for interaction between the participants and the instructor and since the courses are presented in four sessions of two hours each, assignments can be made to participants and discussion can proceed from the assignments.

The Association is also studying the possibility of audio-visual satellite transmission and computer conferencing for continuing education activities. It is also possible that some of the syllabi may be able to be converted to a self-instructional format.

The implementation of such a large continuing education program, of course, carries many problems. Not the least of these is the amount of scheduling and negotiation that needs to be done, in order to ensure that all the materials, instructors and facilities are available for local or regional presentations of courses. In many cases, the pool of instructors is rather thin and occasionally courses have had to be cancelled when instructors were not able to fulfill their commitments for various reasons. Since MLA cannot afford to send its course coordinator to every presentation, the Association must depend upon voluntary efforts by local representatives to do the on-site work. While this has been a satisfactory relationship in general, there have been some cases in which the use of local representatives has proved to be less than satisfactory.

The goal of MLA's continuing education activities is to provide a wide variety of courses for as many members and nonmembers as possible at the lowest possible cost. The fact of the matter is that costs have been rising considerably during recent years and, of course, fees have had to be raised. This has caused some negative reaction from attendees, but economic pressures have necessitated these actions. In addition to scheduling problems, there have been occasional problems with the development of new courses. Since the courses are developed by members of the Association and since the honorarium for the development of courses is rather modest, it is impossible to enforce necessary time tables for the development and production of syllabi. In some cases, MLA has had to postpone an announced course because the syllabus is not ready.

Despite the problems outlined in this paper, the Association's continuing education program is generally perceived by the membership and by others to be among the most valuable member services provided by MLA. It is also seen by the library community in North America in general as the most comprehensive and among the best of all education efforts by professional library associations. MLA has concentrated its efforts on introductory level courses, and has had less success in providing educational opportunities for middle-management and upper-management professionals in health sciences libraries. The Continuing Education Committee and the Director of Education are continuing to investigate this aspect to see how we might proceed to better serve this group of members. In 1980 and 1981, we offered these members the opportunity to take courses developed by Special Libraries Association, which we felt would be of interest. For example, at our 1981 Annual Meeting in Montreal, the SLA continuing education course on the Economics of Information was presented. In addition, we have been experimenting with the presentation of some commercially-developed courses. In Montreal we offered a two-day course on Planning for Library Automation Facilities which was developed by Aaron Cohen Associates, Inc.

The very success of MLA's continuing education program has brought its own problems, particularly that of increasing demand for the MLA courses under conditions of financial stringency. The staff, while responding magnificently to these increased demands, has been more and more stretched in its capabilities for performing the various tasks that are necessary. The Association will soon need to make some long-range decisions about the relationship between the number of courses offered and the size of the professional staff assigned to these activities.

Certification and Recertification

In an effort to equate the practice of health sciences librarianship with other medically related professions, the Medical Library Association many years ago began a program for certification of health sciences librarians. As far as this writer can discover, MLA is the only American library and information association which offers certification on a voluntary basis, both to members and to nonmembers. Originally, certification required the completion of a course in medical librarianship, but in the early 1970's the Association adopted a new code for the certification of medical librarians, and proceeded to work on a competency-based examination by which those who wished to do so could qualify for certification. The development of the certification examination has been a costly process, both in terms of money and in terms of the volunteer effort needed to develop the examination. In order to be eligible to take the examination, an applicant must be a graduate of an American Library Association accredited library school program or an equivalent overseas library program. For full certification, rather than provisional certification, the applicant must have had two years of work experience as a health sciences librarian. The examination has been given since 1978 and in November of 1980, 155 individuals wrote the examination. Whether by examination or by previous certification mechanisms, 3,472 people are now certified by the Medical Library Association as health sciences librarians. The certification code requires recertification at five-year intervals. Recertification applications for the period beginning 1982 are already being accepted in the Association's Offices. Applicants for recertification may choose to be recertified either by proving a certain number of hours of continuing education work since they were last certified, or by taking the certification exam.

Although the construction of the certification exam has been a very painstaking and careful process, there have been a number of questions related to this examination during the past few years, as well as questions relating to the necessary qualifications for taking the exam. For example, questions have been raised by people who graduated from professional library schools in the years immediately before those library schools were accredited. These individuals have not in the past been considered eligible to write the examination. They have invoked the appeals process which is inherent in the certification code in order to try to get a reversal of the judgments made in their cases. In addition, there are of course, librarians performing professional services who have graduated from nonaccredited library schools, and indeed, a number who have not graduated from library schools at all. All of these situations are now under review by a committee of the Association or will be considered within the next few months. I think it only fair to state, for the edification of other professional associations who may wish to undertake a certification program, that it is enormously time-consuming, extremely expensive, and filled with problems. This is not to indicate that it cannot be done or that it should not be done, but only that an association should consider the implications of such a program with great care before undertaking it.

Conclusion

The Medical Library Association since its founding has concentrated its efforts on a number of services to members which are related overall to improvements in the quality of library services, and in the quality of professional librarians in health sciences libraries. It has been innovative and imaginative in providing these services and its main consideration has been to respond to members needs. In some cases, I think it fair to say that MLA in attempting to respond to the need of its members, has given less than necessary consideration to the economic and political effects of some of the services that it offers.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries

SECTION: Biological & Medical Libraries

57/BIOL/2E

The Role of the library in a national professional organization

by
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Founded in 1847, the American Medical Association (AMA) is one of the oldest organizations of physicians in the United States as well as the largest. Its present membership includes some 187,000 physicians. The major objectives of the AMA, designated over one hundred years ago and still identified in its constitution, are "to promote the science and art of medicine and the betterment of the public health." Even though the practice of medicine has greatly changed since 1847 and the Association has grown many times its original size as well as broadened the scope of its functions, these objectives underlie all of its policies, programs and activities.

To assure that AMA goals and priorities remain relevant in today's world, they are reviewed annually. First, the Association examines the current issues affecting medicine and the medical profession. Given these observations, the Association then delineates basic objectives and the major activities that are needed to implement them. This is called the AMA Plan. The Library serves as a source of information--a support service for the Association's programs. To better understand the role of the library in a national professional organization, I will briefly outline the six objectives in the AMA Plan with the operational strategies developed to implement them.

Objectives of the American Medical Association

Objective One: Scientific Policy and Information

The American Medical Association is primarily an organization dedicated to the continued development of the science and art of medicine. The AMA Council on Scientific Affairs attempts to identify current and emerging issues in the scientific area and to develop effective policy recommendations. Scientific advances are monitored through widespread cooperation with federal organizations and those representing the medical specialties. To disseminate new information and to keep physicians informed of developments in their specialties, the Association publishes monographs, newsletters, pamphlets, nine scientific specialty journals as well as the weekly Journal of the American Medical Association and the AM News. Scientific information includes informing the public as well as the profession and for this objective, the Association has developed a Consumer Book Program that addresses health needs of the public such as emergency health care and heart problems.

Objective Two: Socioeconomic Policy and Information

A primary objective of the Association is to assist physicians in practice-related problems and to formulate policy on issues related to medical practice and health care delivery. Activities include legislative support, development of socioeconomic policy, and informing the profession and the public. Some areas of focus at this time are health manpower, physician-hospital relations, practice management, computers in medicine and health care financing.

Objective Three: Assure the Quality of Medical Care

The quality of medical care is dependent foremost upon the quality of medical education. The AMA was founded during the middle of the nineteenth century with the objective of improving medical education. It has been a pioneer in developing accreditation and evaluation standards in medical education for over 150 years. Undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education, continuing medical education, allied health education, and international medicine are areas of concern.

Objective Four: Representing the Association

This objective involves efforts to influence significant external forces regulating medicine. Focus is on legislative activity at both the federal and state levels, disseminating information on areas of concern to medicine, and enhancing communication with the profession and the public. As primary spokesman for the medical profession, the Association monitors and analyzes legislative activities as they affect medicine; initiates and conducts legislative campaigns on behalf of the profession; and maintains liaison and interaction with the Congress and the federal regulatory agencies.

Objectives Five and Six: Strengthen Organized Medicine and Maintain Support Services for the Association

The first objective emphasizes maintaining and expanding the membership base so that the Association truly represents the profession and strengthening relations between AMA and its constituent and component societies. The second objective relates to activities generally classed as policy-making, management and administration.

The Division of Library and Archival Services

Within this framework, what is the role of the American Medical Association Library? Organized in 1911, the Division of Library and Archival Services is one of the oldest and most comprehensive national association libraries in America. For the health professions it has, over the years, served as:

- Research and archival center for the scientific, educational, publishing, and socioeconomic programs of the Association and its constituent societies.
- An instrument for continuing education programs sponsored by the Association for its members.
- A national information center for physicians, professional organizations, the allied health professions and the general public.

Access to World-Wide Information. The international output of information is made available by the AMA Library through its own collections and through the large regional and national library networks. At the core of the Library is a comprehensive file of current medical and health-related publications which is supplemented by large, specialized collections. These include over 110,000 monographs and bound journals, some 2540 current subscriptions, as well as audiovisual media, historical records and artifacts. To access these materials, the library keys into some 140 computerized data bases covering the disciplines of the biological, physical, and social sciences, as well as specialized areas such as health care administration, clinical medicine, and socioeconomics.

The Library serves as a central information clearinghouse for the Association. It is the focal point for both handling and directing inquiries received at the Headquarters Office. Requests for information range from quick reference questions on medical meetings or biographies to clinical and basic science questions that require computerized searches.

Clinical Medicine. To assist the physician in clinical decision-making, keeping up with new developments, research or practice management, the Library provides research and photoduplication services. Information specialists trained at the National Library of Medicine work with staff of the Association's scientific and medical practice divisions to provide the most current information from data bases available through the MEDLARS and related systems. The Library handles requests for information on specific topics and, in addition, provides current awareness services, e.g., monthly lists of articles published in areas of interest.

Medical Socioeconomics. Recognizing that an important aspect of medical care is the delivery of services, the Library began in 1960, a collection of substantive publications in the social, political and economic aspects of medicine. Some 20 years later, this special collection includes over 75,000 publications in the English language from within and outside the United States and is one of the most comprehensive in the world. To access this material, the Library has developed Index to Medical Socioeconomic Literature, 1962-1970; Medical Socioeconomic Research Sources (MEDSOC), 1971-1979; and MEDSOC Online, 1980-.

International Health. For the physician who is travelling overseas--on sabbatical, to practice, or to attend an international congress, the Library serves as a clearinghouse of information. Files are maintained on foreign medical organizations; on hospital and medical facilities in various countries; and on local living conditions. For the American physician abroad, the Library provides research and photocopy services on specific medical subjects. This section compiles a list of medical meetings outside the United States which is published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and works closely with international activities of the Association.

Archives of the Association. The history of the American Medical Association is an important aspect of the history of American medicine. The Archives house some 2700 linear feet of documents, among them, policy papers, records of the Association, publications, films, taped interviews, and an extensive collection of historical photographs. Artifacts include medals, trophies, portraits and gifts to the Association from organizations the world over. In addition to publications of the national association, the collection contains works of constituent and component societies that make up the AMA Federation.

Publications and the Correlation of Information. Another important function of the Library is serving as a center for correlation of information and bibliographic control for the Association. The following are compilations, lists and indexes developed by the Library:

- Index to Medical Socioeconomic Literature. 1962-1970. 4 vols. Available from G. K. Hall and Co.
- Medical Socioeconomic Research Sources (MEDSOC), 1971-1979. Replaced by MEDSOC Online, 1980-. (Data base searchable through the AMA Library.)
- Directory of Health Sciences Libraries in the United States, 1979, by Case Western Reserve University School of Library and Information Science and AMA Division of Library and Archival Services. Available from Medical Library Association.
- Digest of AMA Official Actions. v. 1, 1846-1958; v. 2, 1959-1968; v. 3, 1969-1978; succeeding years online.
- American Association of Medical Society Executives. Management Resources Guide. Available from AAMSE.
- Indexes to AMA Publications: Journal of the American Medical Association (semi-annual); AM News (annual); AMA Specialty Journals (nine publications - annual); Proceedings of the AMA House of Delegates (semi-annual).
- Special Lists: Directory of AMA Staff and Officials (annual); AMA Councils, Committees and Sponsored National Meetings (monthly); International Medical Meetings (bi-monthly).

Discussion

In this paper we have outlined the objectives of the American Medical Association, the largest professional organization in the United States representing the medical profession. Within this context, the AMA Division of Library and Archival Services is viewed as a special program concerned with information functions.

First, the AMA Library is a key resource for the Assoication with its special collections and information processing functions. As an internal support service, it cuts across the programs of the entire Association--scientific, socioeconomic, legislative, and public relations. Second, it serves as an information source and referral system for the medical profession and the allied health professions.

During 1980, the AMA Library handled over 51,000 inquiries from the general public as well as from the health related professions. It has come a long way since seventy years ago, when it began with a budget of less than $500. Today, the support has increased by a factor of over one thousand and the services have extended beyond the United States, world-wide.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries
SECTION: Biological and Medical Science Libraries

100/BIOL/4E

Serving the Needs of the Biological Sciences Librarian

by
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SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES, LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS HAVE TRIED TO BECOME MORE SYSTEMATIC IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSESS MEMBER NEEDS, ESTABLISH PROGRAM GOALS, CREATE MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AND VALIDATE THEIR PROGRAM OFFERINGS. WHILE THESE EFFORTS ARE NOBLE AND APPROPRIATE, INDEED OFTEN CRUCIAL, THEY CANNOT GUARANTEE MEMBER SATISFACTION FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED. THE ASSUMPTION UNDERLYING THIS POSITION CENTERS AROUND THE BELIEF THAT A LOGICAL PLANNING PROCESS WILL ALWAYS LEAD TO "RIGHT" OUTCOMES OR RESPONSES. THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY SO, FOR LOGIC ITSELF IS BUT ANOTHER SYSTEMATIC METHOD OF STRUCTURING OUR THINKING. THE PROCESS MAY BE FAULTLESS, AND YET LEAD TO WRONG DECISIONS BECAUSE OF HUMAN INTERACTION AND MANIPULATION. NEEDS SURVEYS, ESTABLISHING PROGRAM GOALS, DEVELOPING MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AND EVALUATING PROGRAM OFFERINGS ARE ONLY METHODS TO BE USED TO HELP ESTABLISH ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES. THE MEMBERS MUST ALSO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE WORKINGS OF THEIR ASSOCIATION. AFTER ALL, THE ASSOCIATION EXISTS TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AND NOT SOME MYTHICAL SET OF GOALS HANDED DOWN FROM ON HIGH.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN AN ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS. IT INFORMS MEMBERS OF NEW PROGRAMS AND CHANGES IN EXISTING SERVICES; IT KEEPS THEM AWARE OF THINGS THEY NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES; AND IT ALERTS THEM TO NEW CHALLENGES THAT THEY WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE. EFFECTIVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF EVERY ASSOCIATION. ASSOCIATIONS MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IF MEMBERS OF AN ASSOCIATION HAVE NO PROBLEMS, THEN THE MEMBERS NO LONGER NEED THE ASSOCIATION.

FOR MOST OF THE PAST DECADE, AND I REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE PAST WILL CONTINUE IN THE PRESENT DECADE, THE NEWS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS WAS BAD. BAD NEWS WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH REDUCED BUDGETS, REDUCED STAFF, REDUCED USER SERVICES, REDUCED RESOURCES, AND ULTIMATELY REDUCED SUPPORT BY USERS. WE MUST EXAMINE AND SCRUTINIZE OUR LIBRARY SERVICES IN TERMS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS OR PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY. WE NEED TO CAREFULLY EXPLORE THE FUTURE ROLE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN SATISFYING INFORMATION NEEDS AND THEREBY ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR SUPPORT WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

WE ARE SWIFTLY MOVING FROM AN INDUSTRIAL AGE TO AN INFORMATION AGE. CONTINUING ADVANCES IN COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROMISE SUBSTANTIAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

PROGRESS DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS CENTURY BY MAKING INFORMATION MORE AVAILABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND USEFUL. ONE OF OUR GREATEST CHALLENGES DURING THE NEXT DECADE WILL BE TO GUIDE THIS EMERGING INFORMATION POTENTIAL IN A WAY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN IN THIS INFORMATION-RICH ENVIRONMENT, WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO CREATE A POLARIZED SOCIETY - AT ONE EXTREME THOSE WHO ARE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED USERS OF INFORMATION AND AT THE OTHER THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD OR DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

IN SPITE OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS MENTIONED ABOVE, WE ARE CLEARLY ON THE THRESHOLD OF AN EXCITING NEW ERA IN INFORMATION. IN ENTERING THIS ERA, HOWEVER, WE FACE MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND SEEMINGLY IRRECONCILABLE CHOICES. WE MUST CONCENTRATE UPON - WHAT DO WE WANT? AND NOT WHAT DO WE HAVE? FOR INSTANCE, WE MUST ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR OUR INFORMATION RESOURCES AND DECIDE HOW THEY SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO MEET INFORMATION NEEDS IN RELATION TO OTHER SOCIAL NEEDS. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION, WE MUST DECIDE HOW TO ALLOCATE INFORMATION RESOURCES AMONG CITIZENS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, LABOR, AND THE MANY SERVICE PROFESSIONS. WE NEED TO CAREFULLY EXPLORE THE FUTURE ROLE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN SATISFYING THESE NEEDS. THIS IS A FUNCTION IN WHICH ASSOCIATIONS MUST BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED.

PERHAPS, WE AS A PROFESSION HAVE POSSIBLY PROMISED MORE THAN WE CAN DELIVER. TOO FREQUENTLY WE DO NOT HAVE A GOOD GRASP OF WHERE WE WANT TO BE, LET ALONE WHERE OUR PROGRAMS SHOULD BE. OUR PROMISES HAVE LED TOO MANY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS TO ADOPT POSITIONS WHICH WERE INDEFENSIBLE AND UNDELIVERABLE. WHILE WORDS AND PROMISES MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT ONE TIME DIVERTING AND INTERESTING IN THEIR APPEAL, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WERE LESS THAN DAZZLING, LEAVING THE DEFENSE FOR LIBRARIES IN A SOMEWHAT DESPERATE AND UNTENABLE POSITION.

WHEN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM OF SERVICE, THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIAN MUST BE AWARE OF ALL IMPINGING LIMITS AND CONSTRAINTS. AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT WE HAVE TO WORK WITH AND WITHOUT MUST BE READILY AT HAND, FOR EXAMPLE, MONEY, PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, PEOPLE, AND FACILITIES WITHIN WHICH THE PROGRAM MUST OPERATE. ALSO, CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE GROUND RULES UNDER WHICH THE PROGRAM MUST FUNCTION. HERE ARE SOME OF THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH MUST BE FACED:

A. SOCIAL - DOES THE USER PERCEIVE YOUR SERVICES TO BE NECESSARY AND WORTHWHILE? DO THE STAFF MEMBERS ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE PROGRAM? REMEMBER, IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE, ALL GROUPS INVOLVED MUST ACCEPT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS PROGRAM OFFERINGS. IF THEY DON'T, THE PROGRAM WILL SURELY FAIL.

B. TECHNOLOGICAL - WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT WILL THE PROGRAM REQUIRE? DOES THE PROGRAM REQUIRE THE USE OF MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES? DO FUNDS EXIST TO OBTAIN THESE ITEMS OR CAN A NETWORKING SYSTEM BE IMPLEMENTED TO AMELIORATE THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE - HOW IS THE PROGRAM TO BE COORDINATED, MANAGED, AND SUPERVISED? TO WHOM DOES THE STAFF REPORT? WHAT AUTHORITY RESTS WITHIN THE PROGRAM? REMEMBER PEOPLE GROW THROUGH CHANGE AND WE MUST PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH TO OCCUR. REMEMBER MOST PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO CHANGE IF ONLY GIVEN DIRECTION AND SUPPORT.

D. POLITICAL - WHAT LIMITS ARE PLACED UPON THE PROGRAM BY VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT? HOW POLITICAL MUST THE STAFF BE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE? IS THERE ADEQUATE SUPPORT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENTAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THIS PROGRAM? THIS INCLUDES BOTH THE LIBRARY AND PARENT ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES. I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT FELIX MORELY'S ADAGE: "POLITICS IS THE MASTER OF OUR LIVES. AND WE MUST MASTER ITS WAYS OR BE MASTERED BY THOSE WHO DO."

E. LEGAL - ARE THERE ANY LAWS OR REGULATIONS WHICH RESTRICT OR ENCOURAGE YOUR ACTIVITIES? SHOULD THERE BE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS PREPARED WHICH OUTLINE THE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR PROGRAM?

F. *ECONOMIC* - WHAT KIND OF FINANCIAL BACKING AND COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE? WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF FUNDING? WHAT ARE THE FISCAL CONSTRAINTS PLACED UPON THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS? WE RARELY EXAMINE OR SCRUTINIZE OUR ACTIVITIES IN TERMS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS OR PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY BUT WE MUST LEARN TO DO SO.

SCOTT ADAMS STATED IN *MEDICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN AN AGE OF DISCONTINUITY* THAT IN SOME COUNTRIES "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CREATION OF AN INFORMATION INDUSTRY. THIS INDUSTRY ... IS EXERCISING INCREASING INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY ... THE IDEAL OF AN ECONOMY WHERE CONSUMERS, ... RATHER THAN PRODUCERS ARE SUBSIDIZED APPEARS UNREALISTIC." STILL, IT IS NOT UNREALISTIC TO PURSUE RESOURCE GRANTS TO LIBRARIES. ADEQUATE FUNDING WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND FOR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS FROM PRIVATE, AS WELL AS PUBLIC, SOURCES. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS FACED BY OUR ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETY.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS WHICH AFFECT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ARE: OUTSIDE INTEREST GROUPS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS, AND THE USER COMMUNITY ITSELF. ONLY THROUGH EXAMINING ALL OF THESE AREAS AND THE FORMULATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WILL THE

LIBRARY BE ABLE TO MOVE TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING ITS ESTABLISHED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR A PROGRAM OF SERVING ALL USERS INCLUDING ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PROFESSIONS. IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, WE MUST MONITOR OUR ACTIVITIES, EVALUATE OUR PERFORMANCE, AND UPGRADE OUR SERVICES WHERE EVER POSSIBLE.

WE MUST KNOW WHAT USE THE REQUESTER IS GOING TO MAKE OF THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE IN THIS FIELD. R.T. BOTTLE AND H.V. WYATT STATE IN THE USE OF BIOLOGICAL LITERATURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS USED IN THREE MAIN WAYS:

> "(A) TO FIND A SPECIFIC PIECE OF INFORMATION (THIS MAY INVOLVE MERELY QUICK REFERENCE TO VERIFY KNOWN SPECIMENS OR PHYSICAL DATA, OR MAY INVOLVE A LENGTHY SEARCH OF THE WHOLE STORE OF BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION IF A DETAILED SURVEY OF A PARTICULAR FIELD IS REQUIRED).
>
> (B) FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION OR RECONNAISSANCE READING. (THIS IS THE FIRST REQUIREMENT WHEN ONE STARTS WORK IN A NEW FIELD AND HAS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT ONE ALREADY KNOWS AND WHAT IT IS NECESSARY TO KNOW IN ORDER TO WORK PROFITABLY IN THAT FIELD).
>
> (C) TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE AND INFORMED OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS, USUALLY IN A RELATIVELY NARROW FIELD."

The biological and medical sciences librarian must become involved in the development of an information system which will support the needs of the users of biological and medical information. The system must provide the information when it is needed, in a format which is usable, and at a minimum of expense to the requester. Recent technological developments have greatly expanded the amount of information which is available to the researcher, as well as the amount of information which needs to be examined when one is engaged in a research endeavor. The growth of scientific and technical information which has resulted from the explosion of worldwide interest and activities in all disciplines has caused much international concern. The dilemma of handling, disseminating, and evaluating this vast body of information is bewildering.

In a 1970 report titled *Information Handling in the Life Sciences*, the Council on Biological Sciences Information describes the users of biological information and states that:

> "The design of any system must be based on a clear understanding of the needs of those who are to use it. The users of biological information and their needs may be roughly categorized in the following simple terms, which are by no means fully comprehensive.

The biologist-scholar (researcher and advanced university teacher) needs specific and detailed information to carry on his current research, to plan future research, and to transmit new knowledge to his students.

The practitioner needs information relevant to his particular application of biological knowledge and principles, whether to medicine, agriculture, horticulture, or forestry, and in a degree of depth depending on whether he is a planner, manager, executive, consultant, or industrialist.

The secondary or elementary teacher needs up-to-date information adapted to his teaching responsibilities and to the level of his students.

The policy-maker or administrator does not usually need biological information, as such, but he does need information about biology - the relevance of biology to educational, economic, and national planning, the management problems in working with biologists, and the availability of biologists as consultants.

The citizen needs information, both biological and biology-based, pertinent to such major subjects

> AS CONSERVATION, CIVIC PLANNING, POLLUTION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH, AND EVEN FOR SUCH PRAGMATIC MATTERS AS THE OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF ADVERTISING CLAIMS FOR NEW DRUGS AND MEDICINES."

AS INFORMATION SPECIALISTS IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE KNOW THE NEEDS OF OUR USERS. THIS CAN ONLY OCCUR THROUGH WORKING WITH THEM AND ENGAGING IN OPEN COMMUNICATIONS.

WAYS MUST BE FOUND FOR INCLUDING BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIANS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS. THESE EFFORTS MUST INCLUDE LIBRARIES OF ALL SIZES AND TYPES RANGING FROM THE ONE-PERSON OPERATION TO THE MULTI-STAFFED PROGRAM. NETWORKING CARRIES WITH IT AN INCREASING RELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGY FOR THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION. THE POTENTIAL OF THE MICROCOMPUTER, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE WIZARDRY OF THE MICROPROCESSOR, HAS ALREADY BEEN TAPPED IN SOME AREAS OF THE WORLD. AND ALL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT AN EVEN GREATER GROWTH CYCLE LIES AHEAD.

WE ALL MUST REACH BEYOND OUR OWN RESOURCES TO MOTIVATE AND INSPIRE OUR CO-WORKERS, OUR SUBORDINATES, OUR SUPERORDINATES, AND OUR CONSTITUENTS. WE MUST EMPHASIZE INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS INCLUDING MOTIVATION AND GROUP ACTION SKILLS WHICH ARE NEEDED TO MAKE EVERYDAY HAPPENINGS WORKABLE, REMEMBERING THAT THE MOST BASIC SKILL OF ALL IS THE SKILL OF RELATING WELL TO OTHERS. WE MUST ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS

WHICH WILL ADVANCE OUR PROFESSION AND WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED SERVICES FOR OUR CLIENTS. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO THE BEST OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST AND MUST TAKE ON NEW TASKS WHICH WILL ADVANCE US AS A PROFESSION.

IN CLOSING, A QUOTATION SEEMS APPROPRIATE. IT IS FROM GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S MAN AND SUPERMAN, "THE ONLY PERSON WHO BEHAVES SENSIBLY IS MY TAILOR. HE TAKES MY MEASUREMENT ANEW EVERY TIME HE SEES ME, ALL THE REST GO ON WITH THEIR OLD MEASUREMENTS." THE NATURE OF OUR WORK AND OUR PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS MAKE IT SO THAT NEVER CAN YOU AS BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIANS RELY UPON OLD MEASUREMENTS. THE MEASURE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 1981 AND THE REMAINING YEARS OF THE DECADE ARE UNKNOWN, BUT THE PRESENT GIVES THE PROFESSION AND THE PROFESSIONAL THE CERTAINTY OF CONFIDENCE THAT GOES WITH KNOWING THAT THE FUTURE IS AT LEAST MANAGEABLE THROUGH USING NEW WAYS TO MEET CHANGED EXPECTATIONS.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION: Special Libraries

SECTION: Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries

77/BIOL/3E

Services, Structure and Organization of Libraries and Information Facilities for Medical Research and the Health System in the GDR

by
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For the realisation of our ideals and our social aims public health care plays an important role. Therefore, the sums spent on matériel and personel for medical research and public health are quite substantial. The number of staff employed in the public health system, for instance, has risen condiderably over the last few years, although at present the total number of workers in our country has remained the same. More than 465 000 persons have been employed in 1979 in public health and social care including medical research. This figure amounts to about 6 % of all people working in the national economy in the GDR.

The greater part of the physicians and medical staff are occupied in medical care with its various forms. In 1980 on the average, there was one doctor for 497 inhabitants available.

The organisation of medical care is based on the administrative territorial structures in the GDR (districts, kreise). This explains already one trend for the development of the structure and the organization of the medical library and information system.

The transfer of results of medical research into practice is of decisive importance for improving the quality of medical work. Medical research is concentrated on those themes that are essential for our country.

The main potential is applied concluredeed in the research institutions of the systems of higher education, public health, and of the Academy of Sciences. But in large district hospitals, too, medical research work is being done.

The thematic main subjects of research are dictated by social interests. Research is carried through in correspondence with major research areas. The national research profile is completed by main research points and individual tasks which are also of high importance for improving medical work.

Physicians and dentists are trained at 6 Universities and 3 Medical Academies. After his studies every physician has to quality as a specialist. There are several forms of post-gradual training in the research institutes, in the university clinics and in the territorial training institutions (district hospitals).

These institutions are guided by the Post-Graduat Medical Academy of the GDR.

Consequently, the main demand for scientific information in its different forms - from the supply of literature over inquiries to scientific reviews - results from:

- the different forms of medical care,
- the various tasks in the field of public health management and organisation,
- the main trends and objects in medical research, and
- the training and post-gradual training in public health.

This demand in its qualitative and quantitative form is the basis for developing the network of medical information centres and libraries. To this is added the territorial distribution determined mainly by the necessities of medical care.

The uniform ownership within the IWT Medizin network[x] calls for joint efforts and cooperation within one network in order to satisfy effectively the need for scientific information. Efforts have been made in this field for many years already. Since its fondation 10 years ago, the Institute for Scientific Information in Medicine (IWIM) has been concerned with this matter. It is responsible for the methodological guidance and organization within the IWT Medizin network.

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x) IWT Medicine - Network = Information System in sciences and technology, Medicine

The basis of any effective network formation is the foundation of libraries or informations centres, respectively, in the clinics, research institutes and hospitals themselves. The direct contact between user and staff of any information centre and the direct satisfaction of basic needs of scientific information and literature in the very institution are preconditions for an effective work and the propagation of the scientific results contained in specialised literature. For these reasons it is indispensable for the IWT Medizin to constantly being adapted to the main topics developing in medical research and to the trends followed in medical care. In new buildings of a university clinical centre or of district hospitals, for instance, it must be secured already during planning that adequate specialised libraries or information centres, respectively, are suitably located in order to guarantee efficiency, a good working conditions, and a rapid propagation of the results of cooperation within the IWT Medizin. Over the last few years, this was a particularly important problem, as new district hospitals were built in no less than 6 out of 15 districts. The new district hospitals in Suhl and Neubrandenburg may be mentioned as examples of projects that have been finished lately.

In line with the territorial structure of the IWT Medizin Information centres and specialised libraries, respectively, with special collection fields, have been set up in guiding institutions that are orientated according to the profile of medical research. They have to satisfy the demands of information and specialised literature of all the teams and physicians particpating in medical research.

Their activities not being restricted to the supporting institutions only, are most effective if any given task is fulfilled in its entity (collection, and information service) To develop this field efforts will be concentrated over the next few years and it is to be expected that the long-term concept of medical research will have an advantageous effect. After the analyses on the fulfilment of the decisions on medical research adopted in 1970 had been evaluated the main tasks and trends in research until 1990 were determined in 1980 by government decisions.

There are more than 400 institutions in a mainly decentralised network to satisfy the demand of scientific information by the medical library and information system.

In addition to the IWIM - its leading institution - the IWT Medizin network comprises[x)]

- 23 information centres with integrated specialised libraries,
- 27 information centres,
- 14 medical libraries on district level,
- 340 specialized libraries with partly special collection fields and those in institutions of the territorial public health system.

Furthermore, large scientific universal libraries have medical stocks at their disposal. The "Deutsche Staatsbibliothek", the "Deutsche Bücherei" in Leipzig, and the "Sächsische Landesbibliothek" in Dresden should be mentioned here. At present, a medical central library of the GDR does not yet exist.

Under its statute it is up to the IWIM to organize the IWT Medizin according to uniform principles, to guide the information centres and specialised libraries methodologically, and to coordinate their activities.

This work is of principal importance particularly in a decentralised system where the function of transmitting scientific information plays an important role. This task is performed in various fields of action continuity being a basis of success. Each year seminars are held for the direc-

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x) as to the administrative status, see fig. 1

tors of information centres and specialised libraries. Advanced training and exchange of experience constitute the main subjects on the agenda of these seminars. Working groups are set up to deal with special problems. It may happen that meet several times between the yearly seminars. The cooperation between librarians and information specialists is promoted by the "Section of Medical Libraries of the GDR Library Association".

The work on this stage of development is reflected by cooperative projects, as for instance compiling a survey of addresses and services of the different Libraries, or the central catalogue of medical journals - to be re-edited about every 4 years - etc.

To satisfy the increased demands it is necessary to change from cooperation to coordination. This means that in a decentralised system such problems come to the fore as

- harmononised technologies and equipment,
- standardised stockbuilding of selected specialised libraries (e. g. district libraries),
- standardised electronic data processing,
- synchronized supply of data for international exchange and use of international services.

The central financing of the uniform technical equiment facilitates the solution of problems. In a decentralised system clear-cut and harmonised technological processes are necessary. - Only thus an effective cooperation - with the medical publishing business an book trade and with the other institutions within the library and information system in the GDR, too - can be made possible. The corresponding interconnections are represented in fig. 1.

The use of effectice technical procedures requires a certain service offer and a certain size of the institutions. Therefore, the development of efficient information centres is

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being continued, particularly in the fields of main research lines and research projects. At the district level, the further strengtening of the medical district libraries is aimed at.
In different fields special information systems have been created using electronic data processing, as for instance for diabetes mellitus and lipometabolic disorders, particular fields of molecular biology, nutrition, and social hygiene. Traditional information services - as in the fields of occupational medicine, cancer research, and laboratory diagnostics - add to the information facilities. As a whole, about 50 current bibliographical projects have been registered.

The sources of information are opened up in different ways. But only relatively few are made accessible by means of descriptors an summaries. Some information media - as e. g. "Information for leading staff" - are further processed. For the publication of reviews the journal "DDR-Medizin-Report" edited by the IWIM can be made use of. Not all information media allow to do retrospective research work.

The concentration on main subjects and the facilities available as a whole do not in all fields yet result in the required performances with the desired quality and effectiveness.

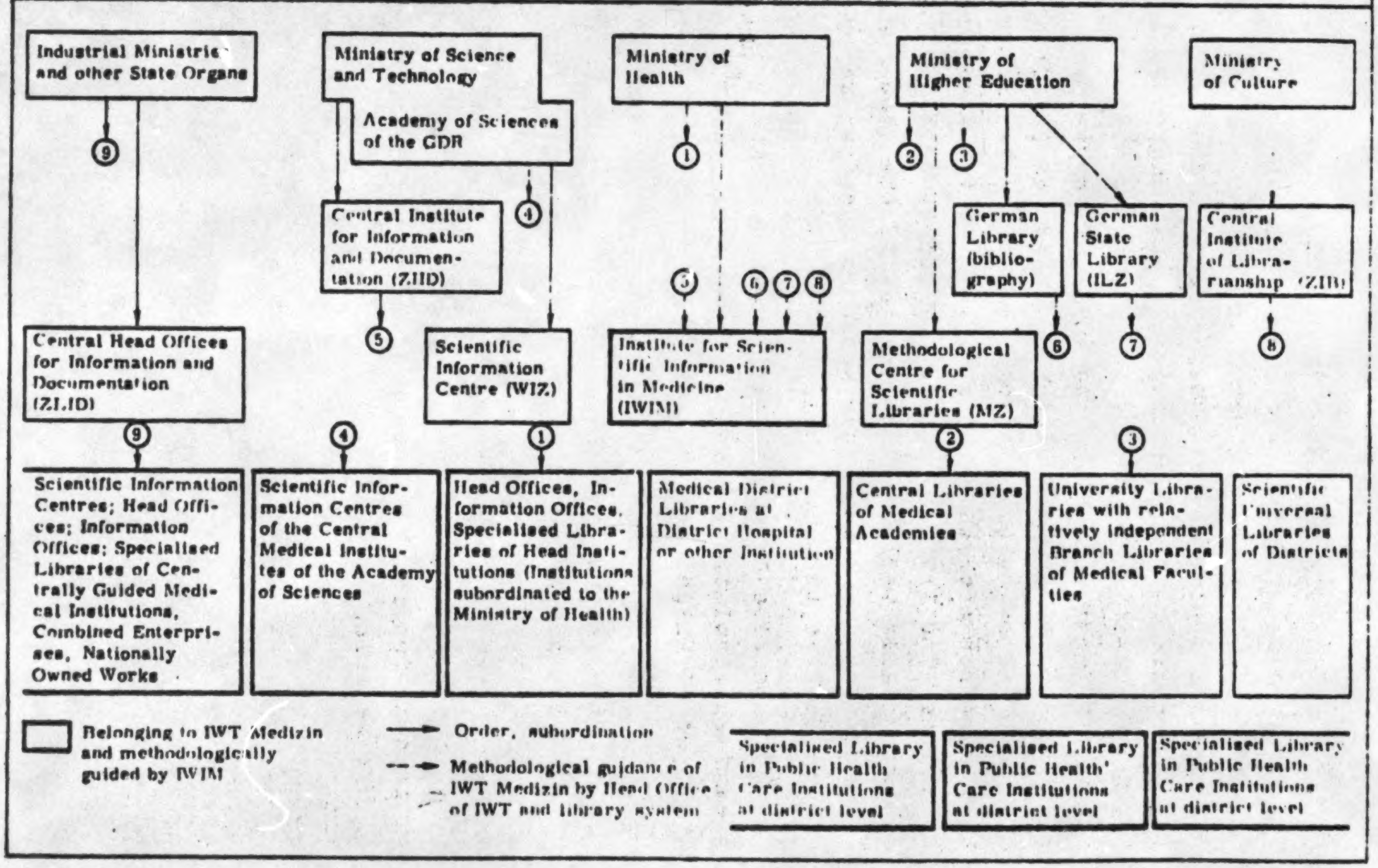
For this reason great emphasis has been put from the very beginning on the cooperation with the medical information centres in the USSR and the other socialist countries. Over the last few years, the automated information system "MEDINFORM" has been jointly developed. At present it is at its experimental stage. During the first phase, scientific information from the member countries of the system is processed. Thus a data bank of the socialist countries will be developed. In the following stages, and when other general medical information systems are used - as for example the MEDLARS system - the connection of information services (literature search etc.) and the supply of literature become in - dispensable. This holds all the more good as together with the use of automated information systems the demand of scientific literature increases considerably. For a decentralised system it is necessary to coordinate the supply of literature before beginning to use automated systems. Therefore a special literature supply system has been developed for the medical library and information system of the GDR. The central services of the IWIM and its co-operators are supported by selected specialised libraries for special literature and medical district libraries for general literature. The literature for the literature search must be made available in a standard time if the global aim of improving the physician's work and speeding up medical research is to be reached.

By means of a cost analysis of the system economically suitable solutions have been sought in relation to the time standard which can be realised only in a coordinated efficient system of literature supply.

By using general automated information systems (MEDINFORM, MEDLARS) and those working in special fields the demands of medical research, care, and teaching can be met at a higher level. The essential precondition as well as consequence to achieve this purpose is the cooperation of the staff of information institutions and specialised libraries in the IWT Medizin.

Institute for Scientific Information in Medicine IWIM

POSITION OF THE "IWT" WITHIN THE IWT AND BIBLIOTHECARYSYSTEM OF THE GDR


Industrial Ministries and other State Organs
Ministry of Science and Technology
Academy of Sciences of the GDR
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Higher Education
Ministry of Culture
Central Institute for Information and Documentation (ZIID)
German Library (bibliography)
German State Library (ILZ)
Central Institute of Librarianship (ZIB)
Central Head Offices for Information and Documentation (ZLID)
Scientific Information Centre (WIZ)
Institute for Scientific Information in Medicine (IWIM)
Methodological Centre for Scientific Libraries (MZ)
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Scientific Information Centres; Head Offices; Information Offices; Specialised Libraries of Centrally Guided Medical Institutions, Combined Enterprises, Nationally Owned Works
Scientific Information Centres of the Central Medical Institutes of the Academy of Sciences
Head Offices, Information Offices, Specialised Libraries of Head Institutions (Institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Health)
Medical District Libraries at District Hospital or other Institution
Central Libraries of Medical Academies
University Libraries with relatively independent Branch Libraries of Medical Faculties
Scientific Universal Libraries of Districts
Belonging to IWT Medizin and methodologically guided by IWIM
Order, subordination
Methodological guidance of IWT Medizin by Head Office of IWT and library system
Specialised Library in Public Health Care Institutions at district level
Specialised Library in Public Health' Care Institutions at district level
Specialised Library in Public Health Care Institutions at district level